US009967424B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Levien et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,967,424 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: May 8, 2018**

(54) **DATA STORAGE USAGE PROTOCOL**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1422 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/404,381**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 14, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2006/0274154 A1 Dec. 7, 2006

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 11/143,970, filed on Jun. 2, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,876,357, and a (Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04N 1/00	(2006.01)
H04N 1/21	(2006.01)
H04N 1/32	(2006.01)
H04N 5/76	(2006.01)
H04N 21/4143	(2011.01)
H04N 21/4627	(2011.01)
H04N 21/258	(2011.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***H04N 1/2166*** (2013.01); ***H04N 1/00251*** (2013.01); ***H04N 1/2187*** (2013.01); ***H04N 5/76*** (2013.01); ***H04N 7/0122*** (2013.01); ***H04N 7/17318*** (2013.01); ***H04N 21/25875*** (2013.01); ***H04N 21/4143*** (2013.01); ***H04N 21/4627*** (2013.01); ***H04N 21/472*** (2013.01); *G11B 27/32* (2013.01); *H04N 1/32122* (2013.01); *H04N 2101/00* (2013.01); *H04N 2201/212* (2013.01); *H04N 2201/214* (2013.01); *H04N 2201/216* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H04N 1/2166; H04N 1/2361; H04N 1/21

USPC 348/207.1, 231.1–9

See application file for complete search history.

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U.S. Appl. No. 11/703,063, Jung et al.

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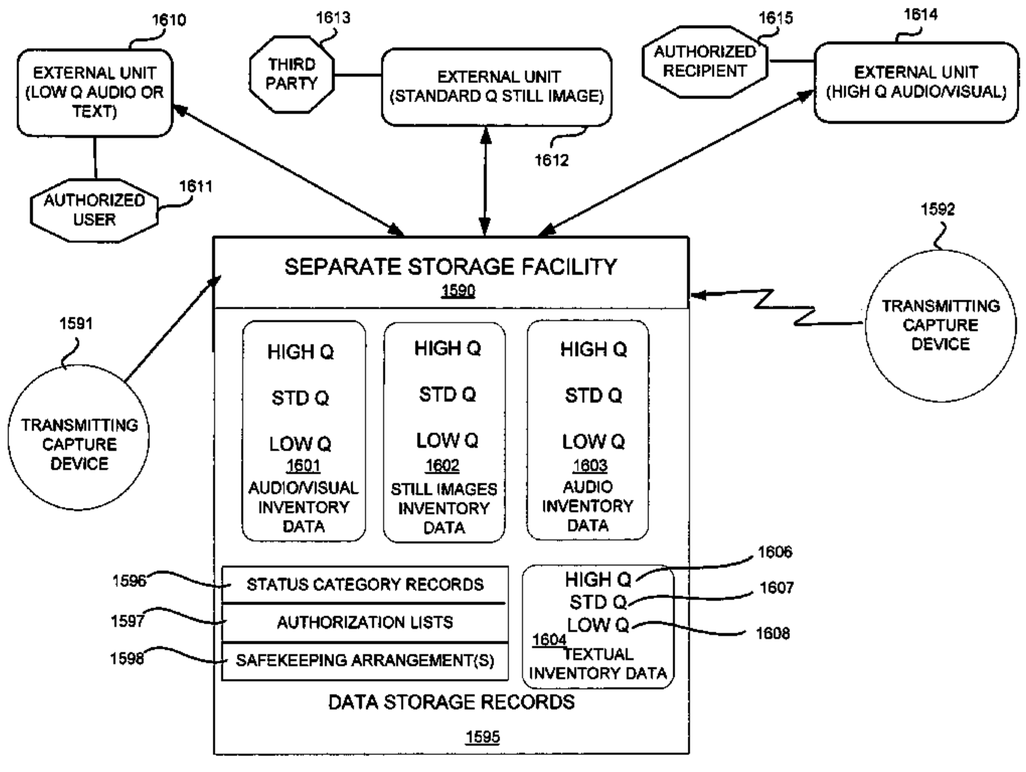
Primary Examiner — Twyler Haskins
Assistant Examiner — Akshay Trehan

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A technique processes captured data on a device, wherein selected captured data of a given quality resolution is transferred via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability. A storage protocol may include different storage organization categories. A possible aspect includes an identifier record to enable future accessibility to selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices or authorized recipients.

52 Claims, 63 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

continuation-in-part of application No. 11/190,516, filed on Jul. 26, 2005, now Pat. No. 9,082,456, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/263,587, filed on Oct. 31, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,872,675, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/264,701, filed on Nov. 1, 2005, now Pat. No. 9,191,611, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/376,627, filed on Mar. 15, 2006, now abandoned, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/397,357, filed on Apr. 3, 2006, now Pat. No. 8,681,225, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/404,104, filed on Apr. 13, 2006, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04N 21/472	(2011.01)
G11B 27/32	(2006.01)
H04N 7/01	(2006.01)
H04N 7/173	(2011.01)
H04N 101/00	(2006.01)

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FIG. 1

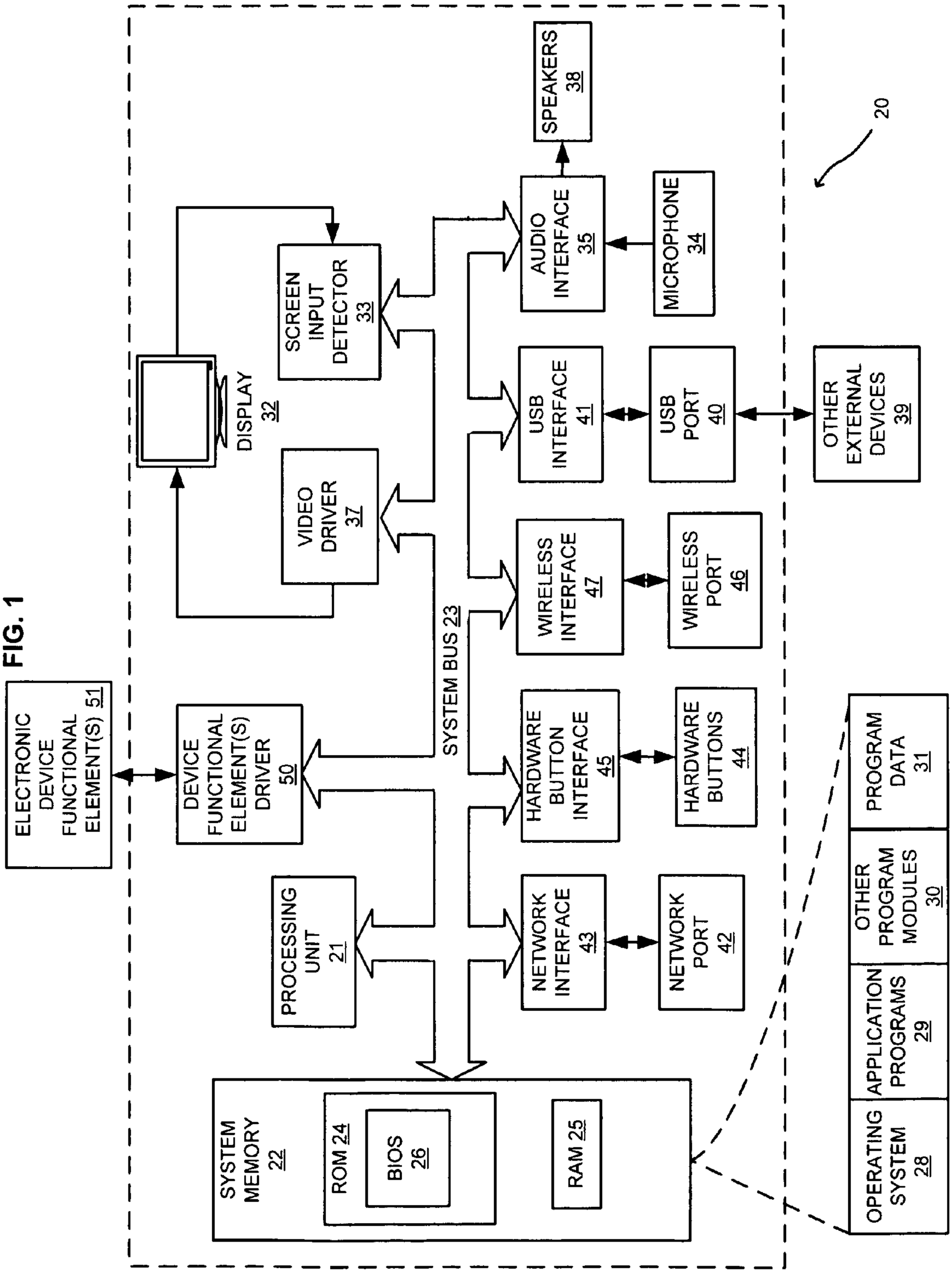

20
SPEAKERS 38
AUDIO INTERFACE 35
MICROPHONE 34
SCREEN INPUT DETECTOR 33
DISPLAY 32
VIDEO DRIVER 37
USB INTERFACE 41
USB PORT 40
OTHER EXTERNAL DEVICES 39
WIRELESS INTERFACE 47
WIRELESS PORT 46
SYSTEM BUS 23
ELECTRONIC DEVICE FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT(S) 51
DEVICE FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT(S) DRIVER 50
HARDWARE BUTTON INTERFACE 45
HARDWARE BUTTONS 44
PROCESSING UNIT 21
NETWORK INTERFACE 43
NETWORK PORT 42
PROGRAM DATA 31
OTHER PROGRAM MODULES 30
APPLICATION PROGRAMS 29
OPERATING SYSTEM 28
SYSTEM MEMORY 22
ROM 24
BIOS 26
RAM 25

FIG. 2

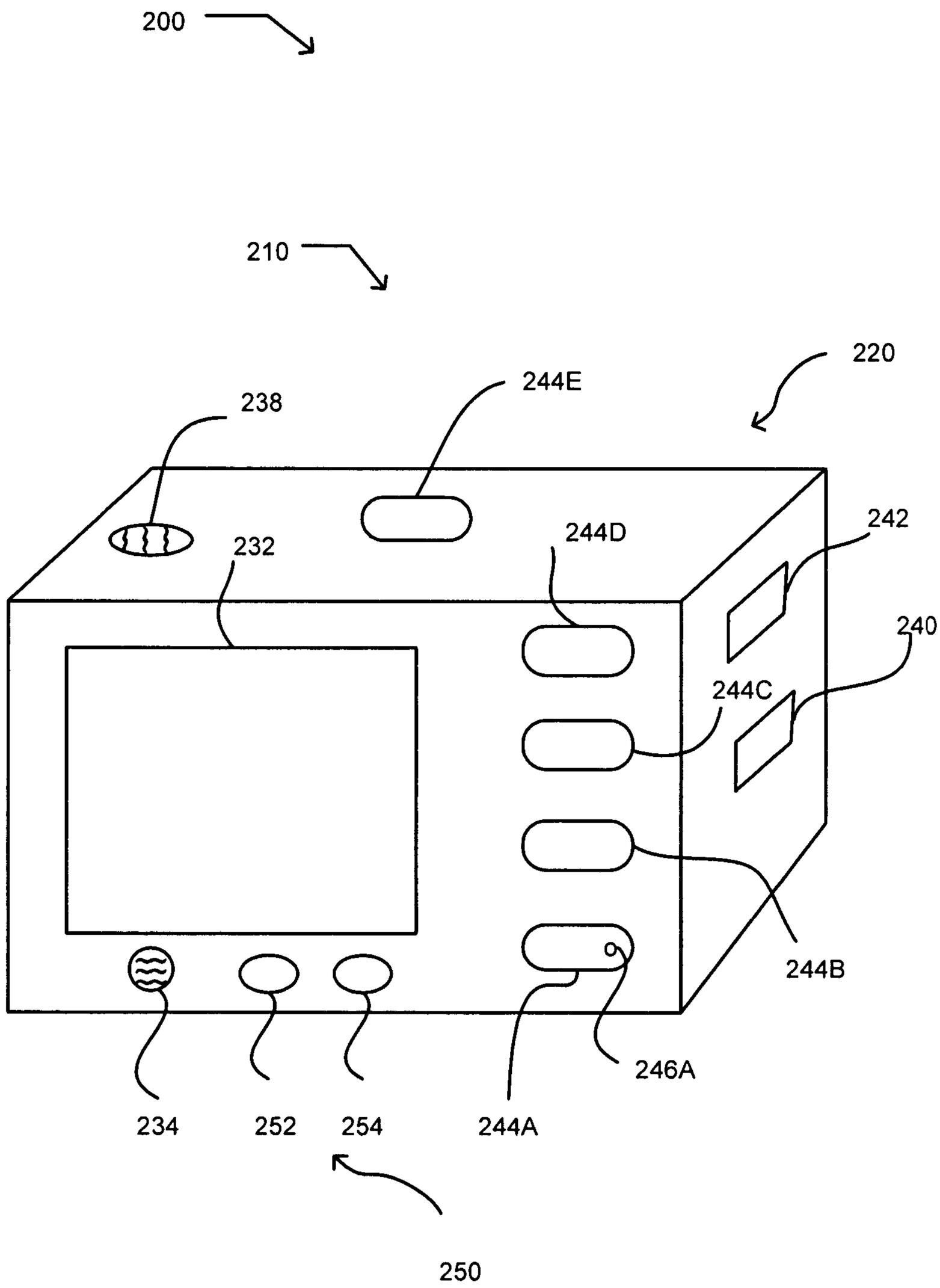
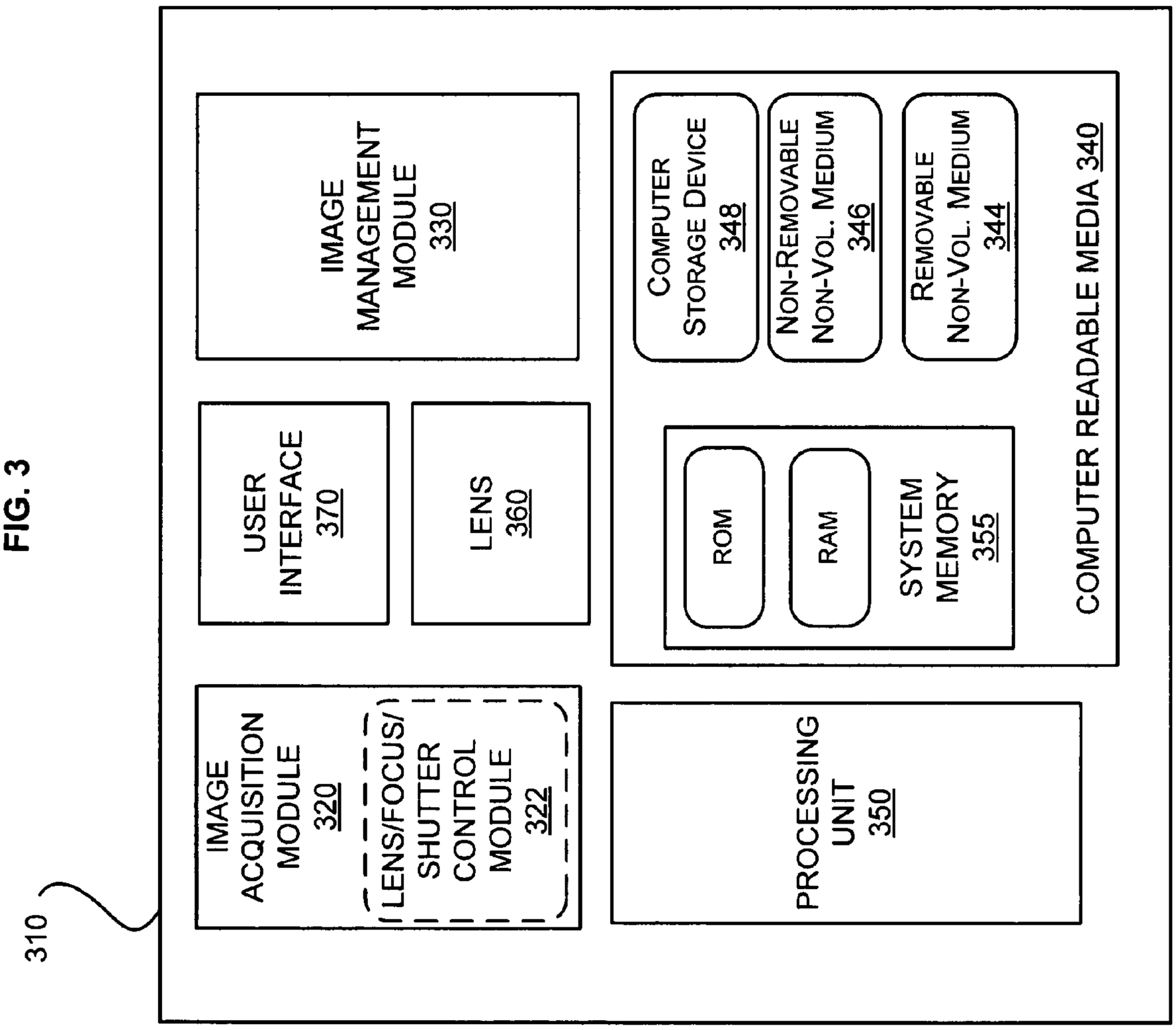

200
210
220
238
244E
232
244D
242
240
244C
244B
246A
234
252
254
244A
250

FIG. 3


300
310
IMAGE ACQUISITION MODULE 320
LENS/FOCUS/ SHUTTER CONTROL MODULE 322
USER INTERFACE 370
LENS 360
IMAGE MANAGEMENT MODULE 330
PROCESSING UNIT 350
SYSTEM MEMORY 355
ROM
RAM
COMPUTER READABLE MEDIA 340
COMPUTER STORAGE DEVICE 348
NON-REMOVABLE NON-VOL. MEDIUM 346
REMOVABLE NON-VOL. MEDIUM 344

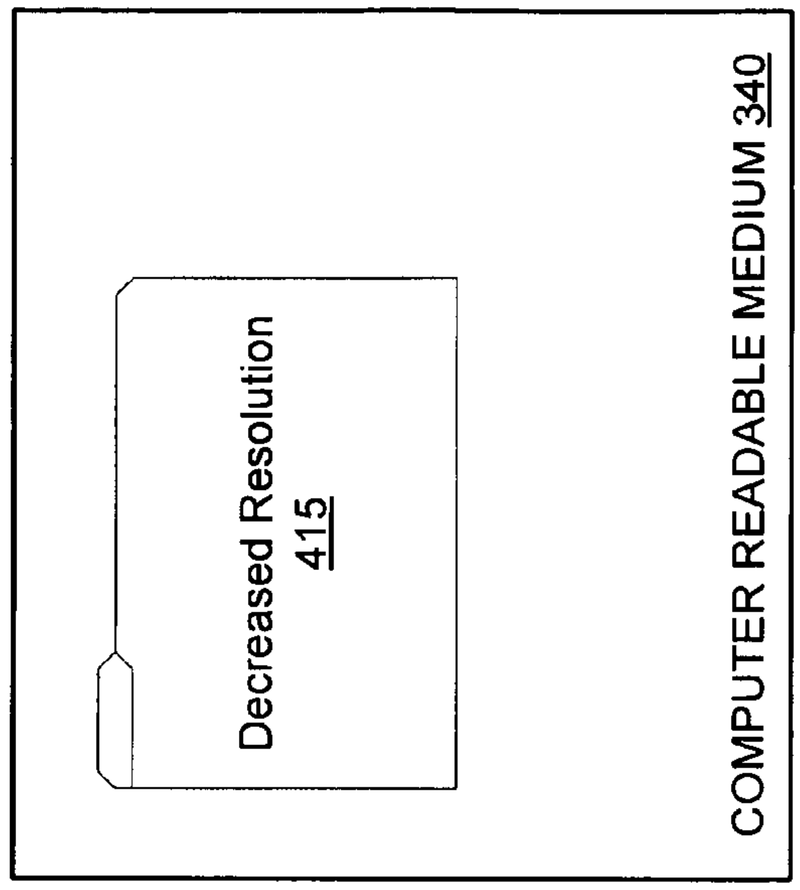


FIG. 4B

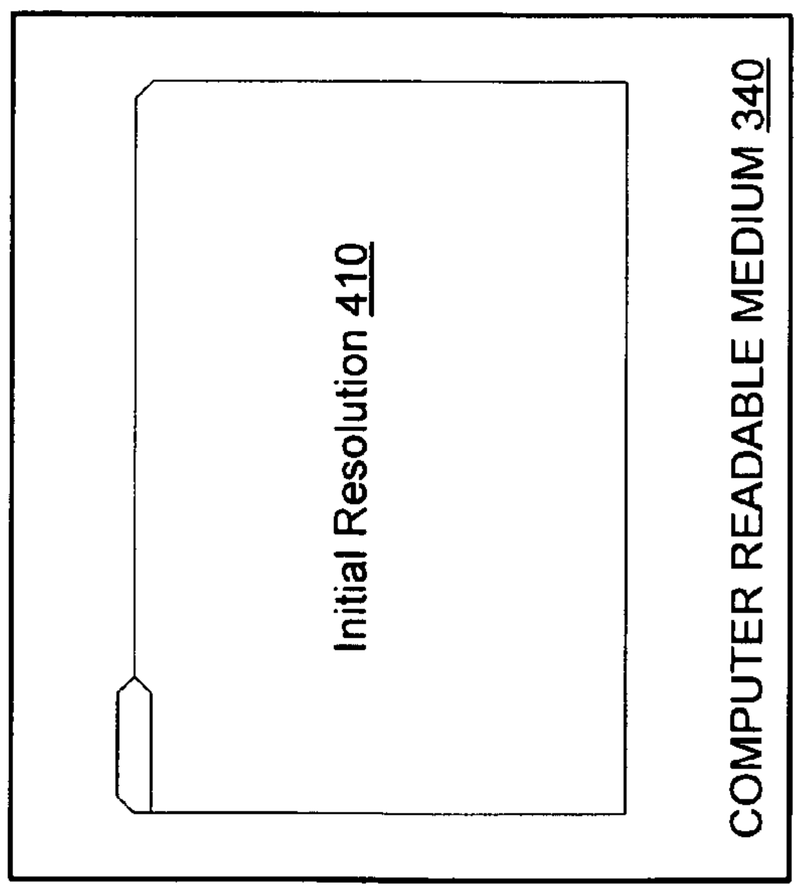


FIG. 4A

400

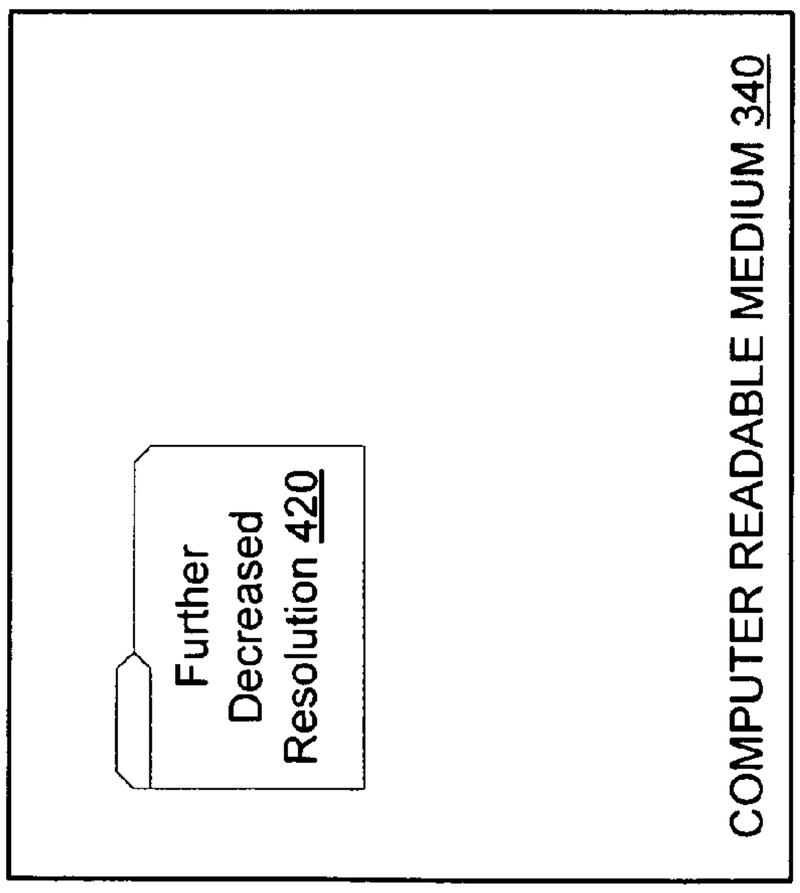


FIG. 4C

FIG. 5

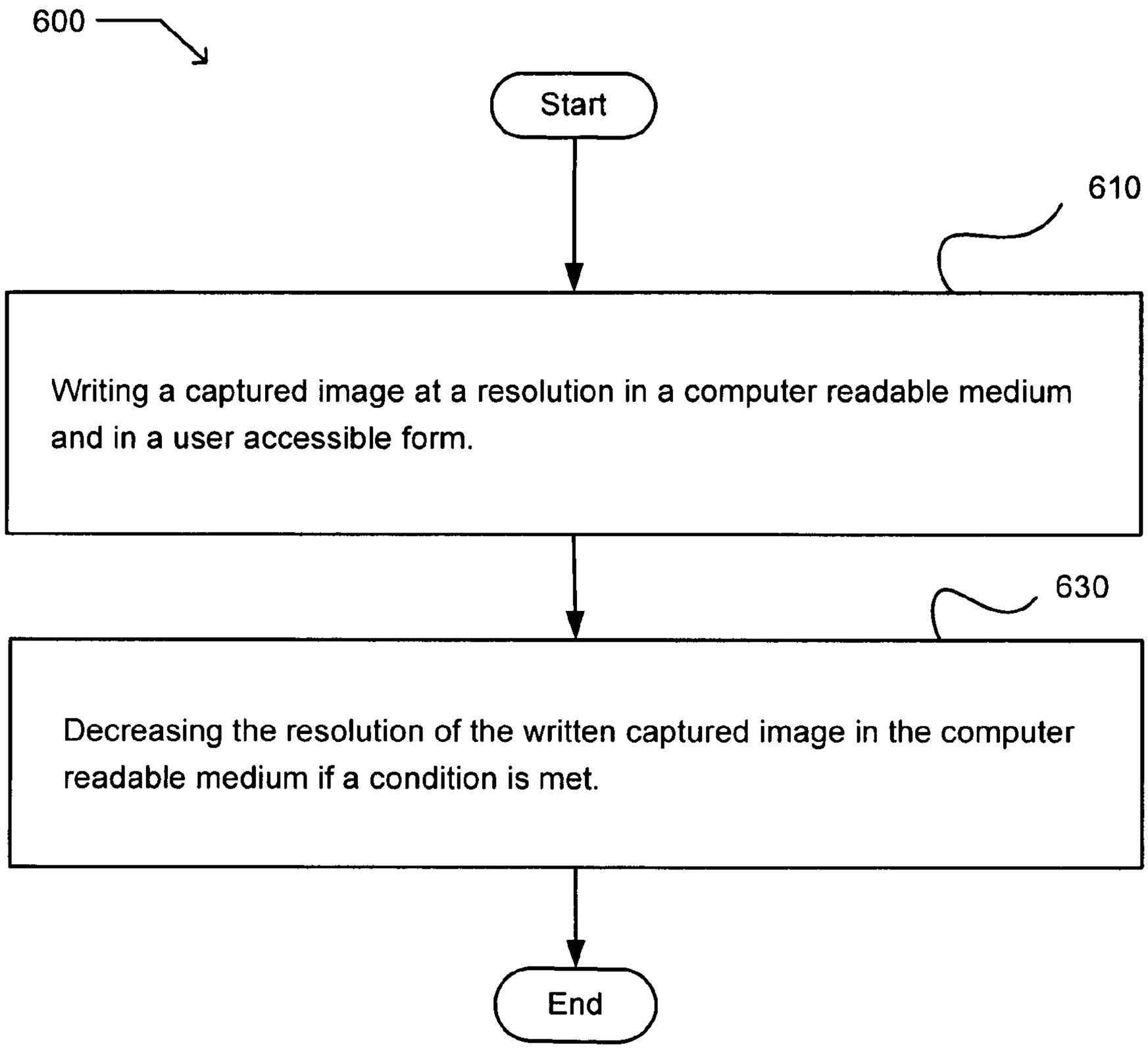

600
Start
610
Writing a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user accessible form.
630
Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.
End

FIG. 6

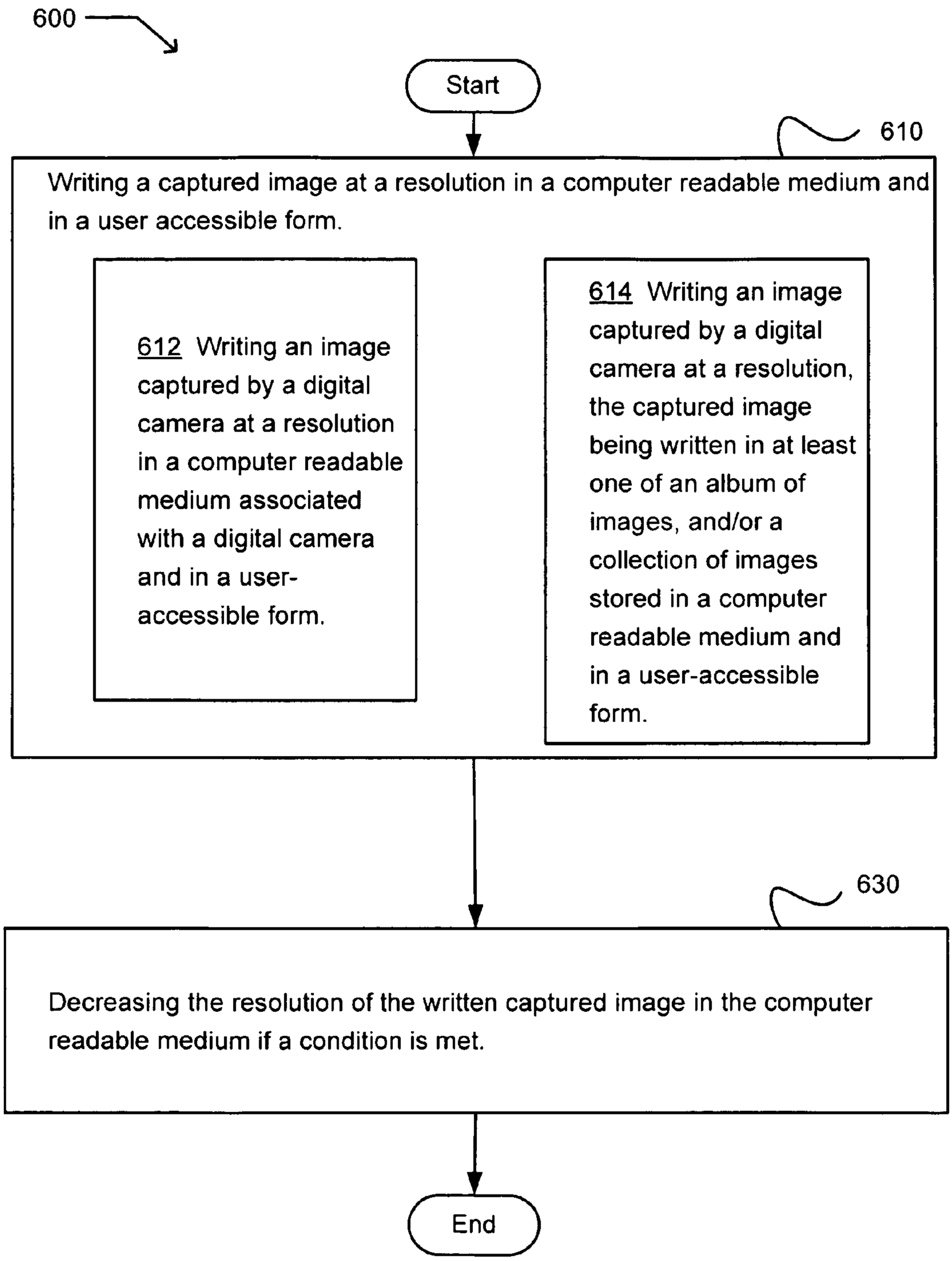

600
Start
610
Writing a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user accessible form.
612 Writing an image captured by a digital camera at a resolution in a computer readable medium associated with a digital camera and in a user-accessible form.
614 Writing an image captured by a digital camera at a resolution, the captured image being written in at least one of an album of images, and/or a collection of images stored in a computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form.
630
Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.
End

FIG. 7

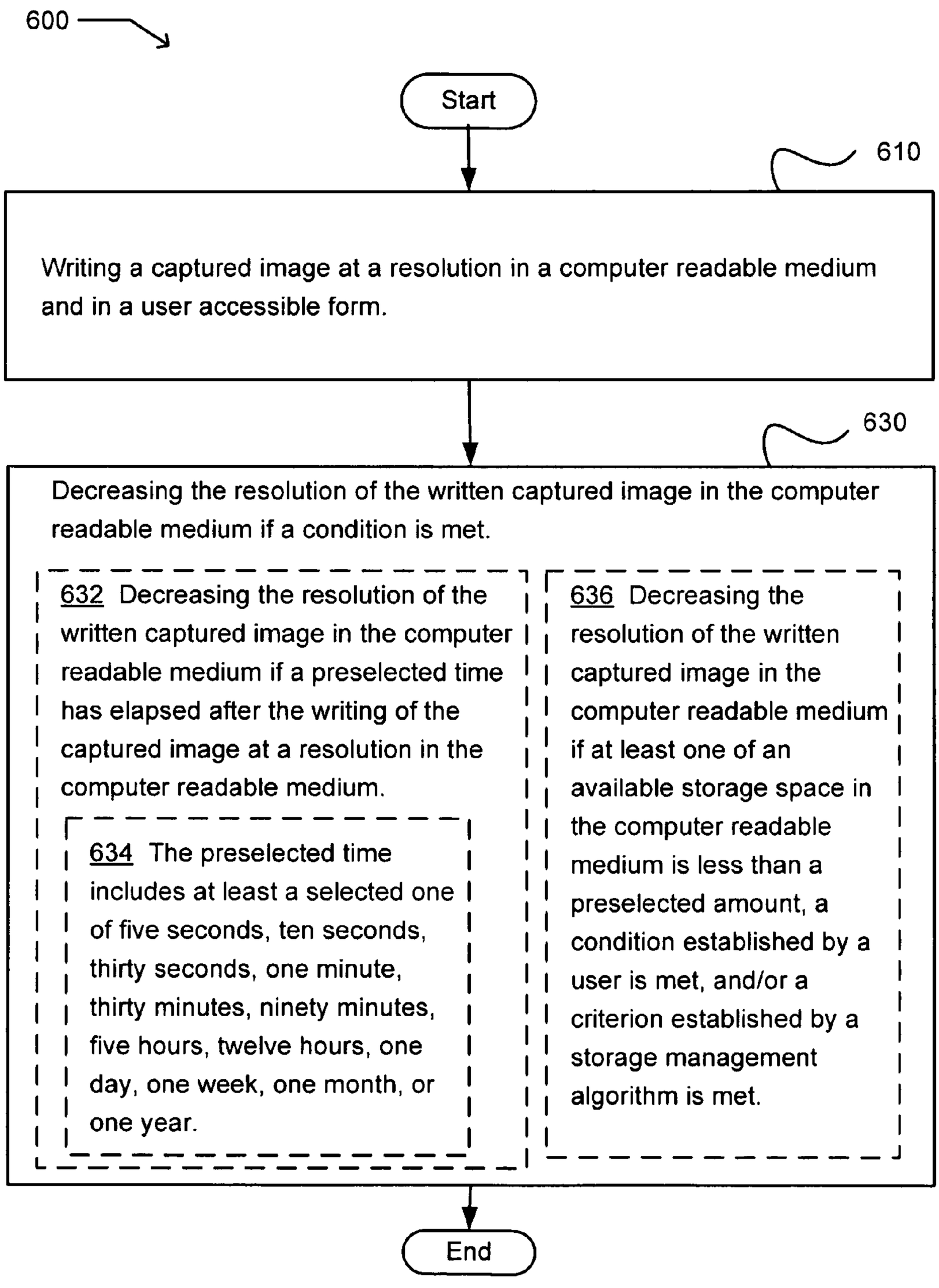

600
Start
610
Writing a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user accessible form.
630
Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.
632 Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a preselected time has elapsed after the writing of the captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium.
634 The preselected time includes at least a selected one of five seconds, ten seconds, thirty seconds, one minute, thirty minutes, ninety minutes, five hours, twelve hours, one day, one week, one month, or one year.
636 Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if at least one of an available storage space in the computer readable medium is less than a preselected amount, a condition established by a user is met, and/or a criterion established by a storage management algorithm is met.
End

FIG. 8

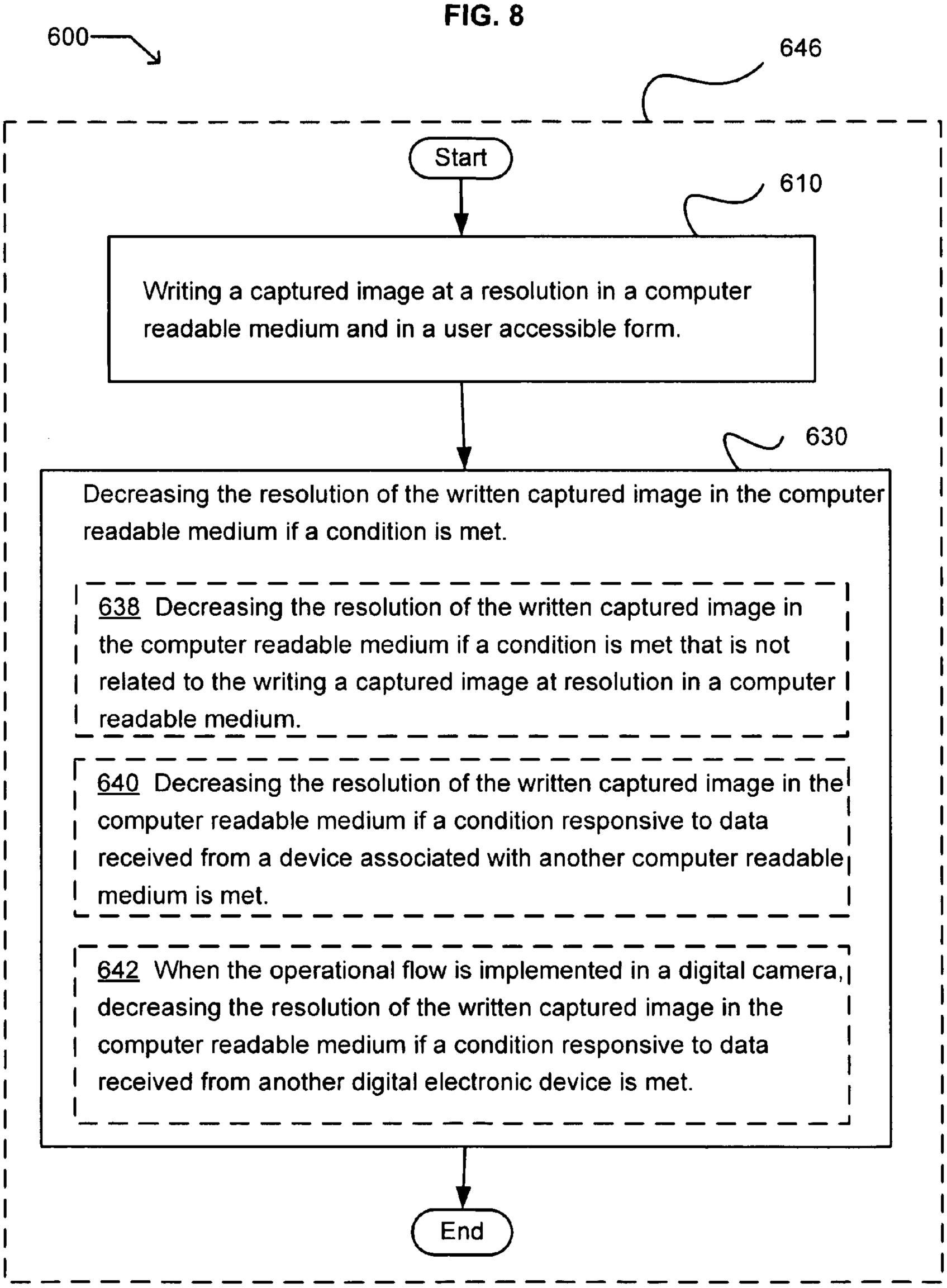

600
646
Start
610
Writing a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user accessible form.
630
Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.
638 Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met that is not related to the writing a captured image at resolution in a computer readable medium.
640 Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition responsive to data received from a device associated with another computer readable medium is met.
642 When the operational flow is implemented in a digital camera, decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition responsive to data received from another digital electronic device is met.
End

FIG. 9

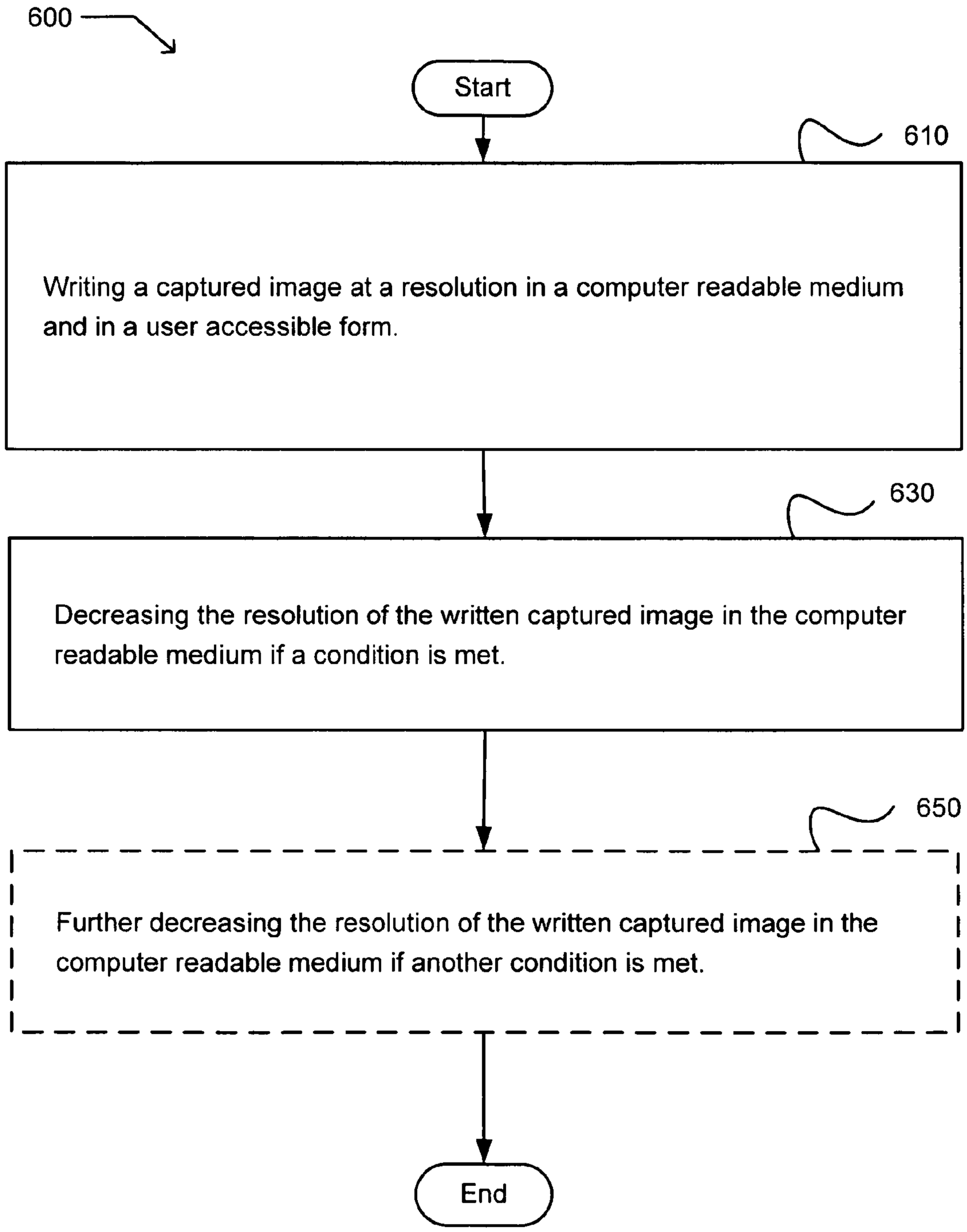

600
Start
610
Writing a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user accessible form.
630
Decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.
650
Further decreasing the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if another condition is met.
End

FIG. 10

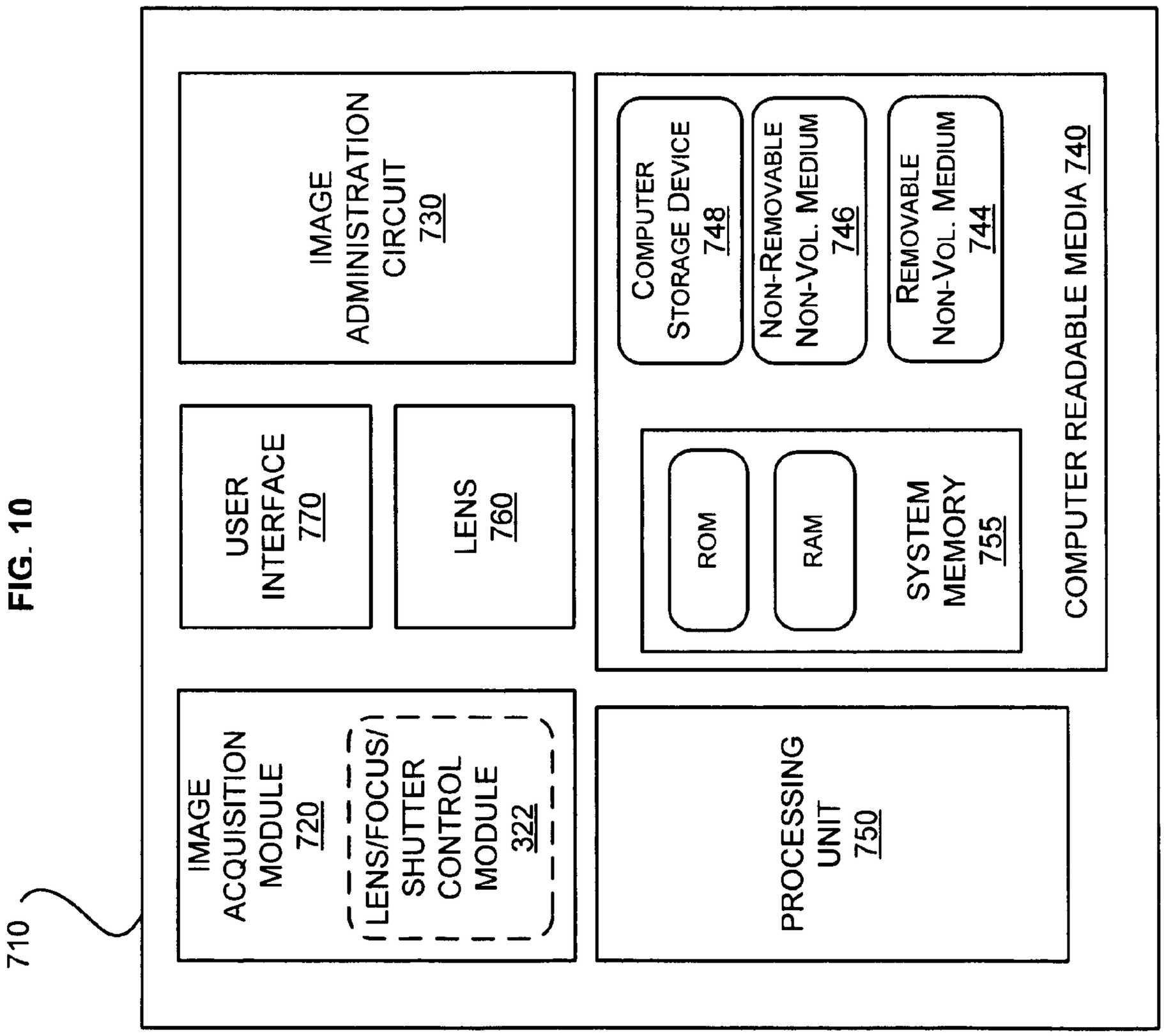

700
710
IMAGE ACQUISITION MODULE 720
LENS/FOCUS/SHUTTER CONTROL MODULE 322
USER INTERFACE 770
LENS 760
PROCESSING UNIT 750
IMAGE ADMINISTRATION CIRCUIT 730
COMPUTER READABLE MEDIA 740
SYSTEM MEMORY 755
ROM
RAM
COMPUTER STORAGE DEVICE 748
NON-REMOVABLE NON-VOL. MEDIUM 746
REMOVABLE NON-VOL. MEDIUM 744

FIG. 11

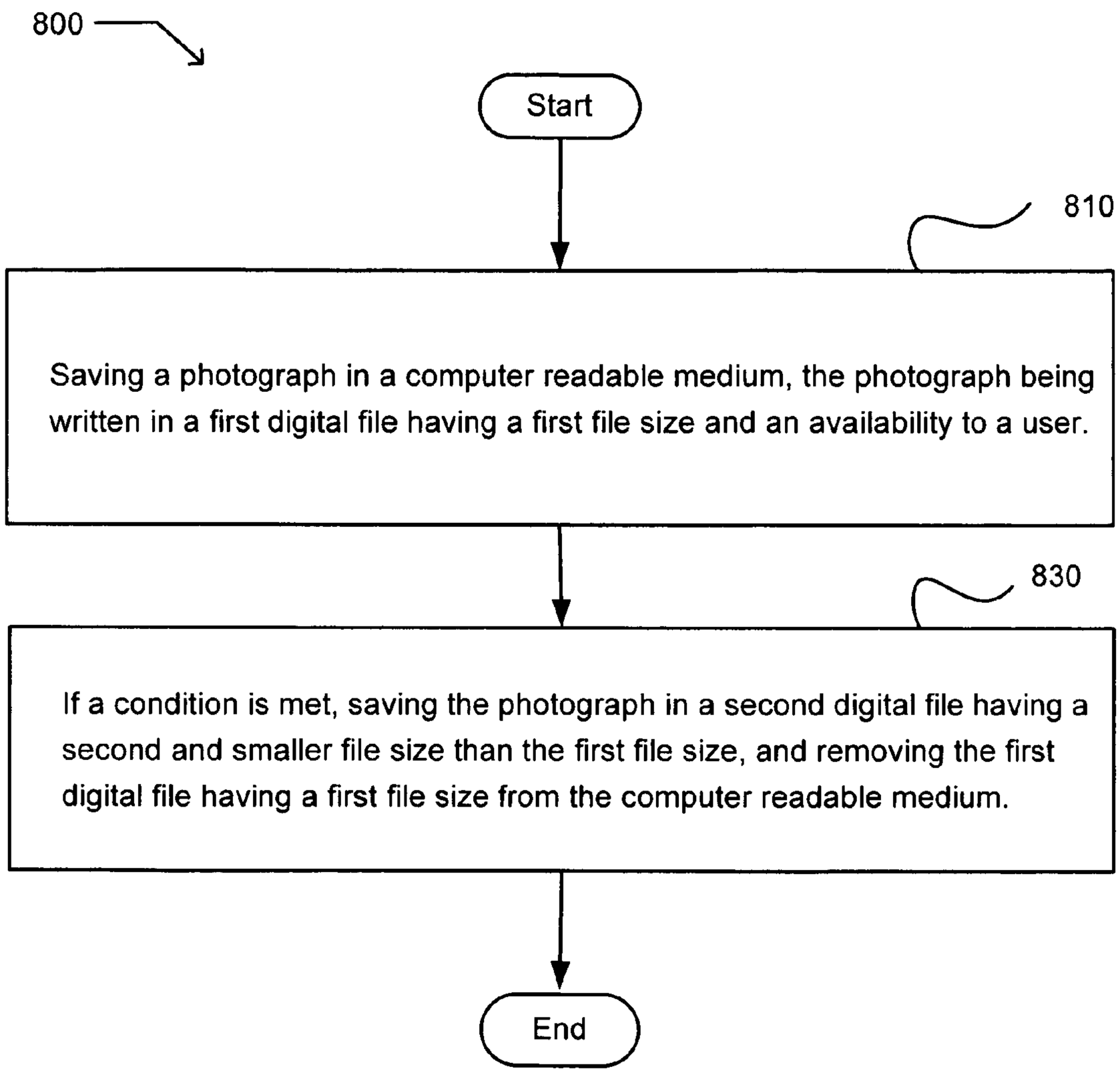

800
Start
810
Saving a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being written in a first digital file having a first file size and an availability to a user.
830
If a condition is met, saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size, and removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium.
End

FIG. 12

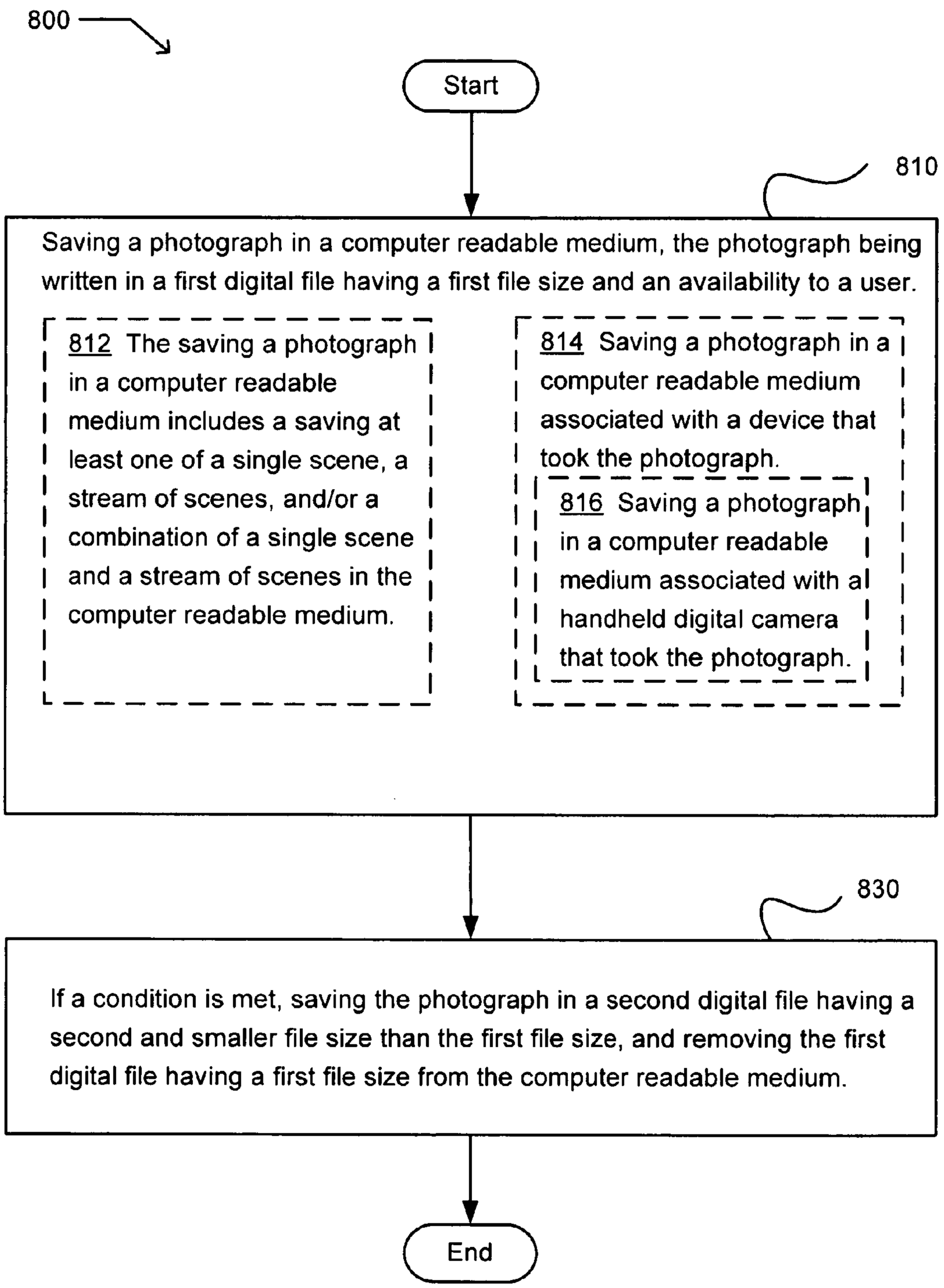

800
Start
810
Saving a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being written in a first digital file having a first file size and an availability to a user.
812 The saving a photograph in a computer readable medium includes a saving at least one of a single scene, a stream of scenes, and/or a combination of a single scene and a stream of scenes in the computer readable medium.
814 Saving a photograph in a computer readable medium associated with a device that took the photograph.
816 Saving a photograph in a computer readable medium associated with a handheld digital camera that took the photograph.
830
If a condition is met, saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size, and removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium.
End

FIG. 13

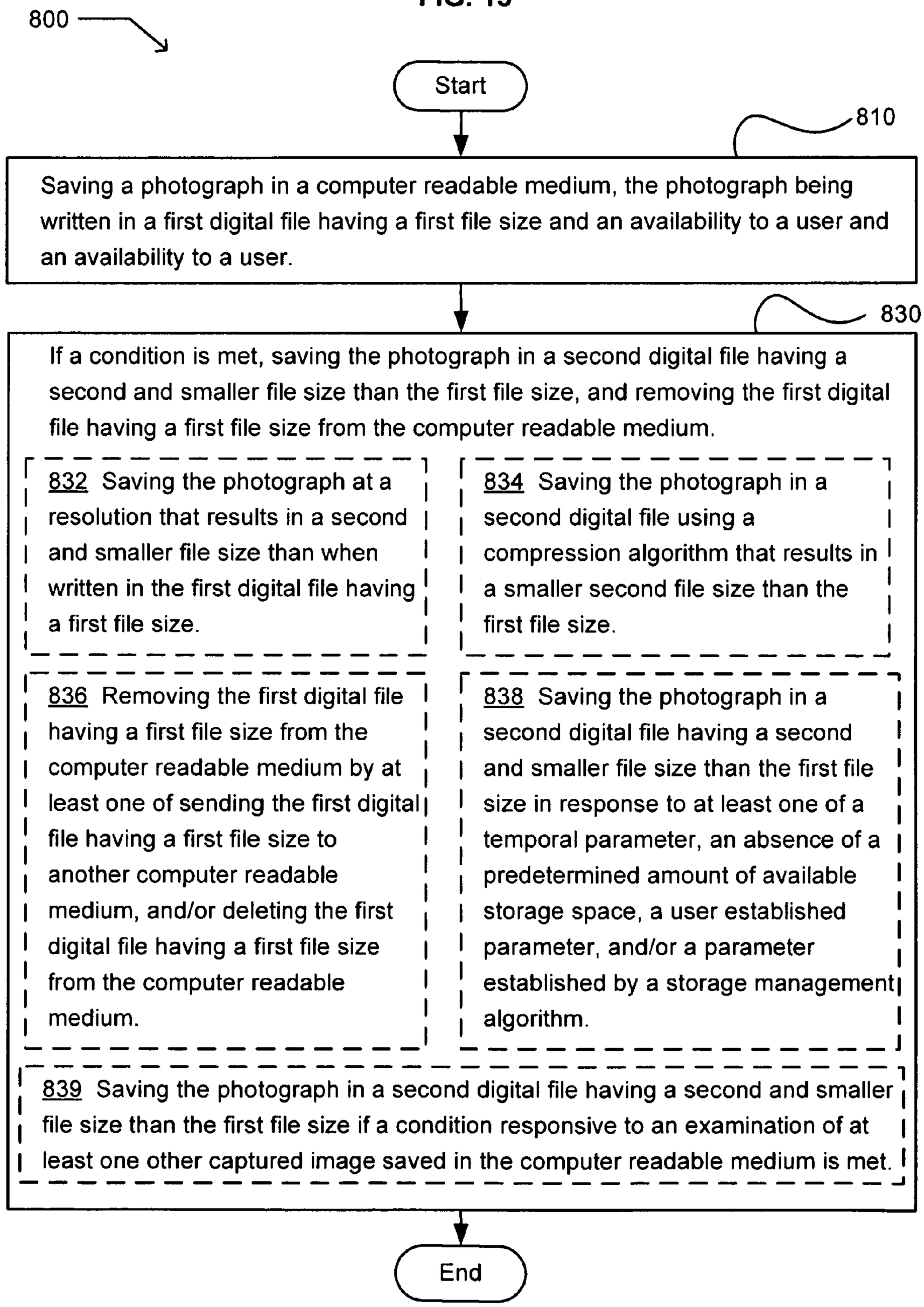

800
Start
810
Saving a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being written in a first digital file having a first file size and an availability to a user and an availability to a user.
830
If a condition is met, saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size, and removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium.
832 Saving the photograph at a resolution that results in a second and smaller file size than when written in the first digital file having a first file size.
834 Saving the photograph in a second digital file using a compression algorithm that results in a smaller second file size than the first file size.
836 Removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium by at least one of sending the first digital file having a first file size to another computer readable medium, and/or deleting the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium.
838 Saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size in response to at least one of a temporal parameter, an absence of a predetermined amount of available storage space, a user established parameter, and/or a parameter established by a storage management algorithm.
839 Saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size if a condition responsive to an examination of at least one other captured image saved in the computer readable medium is met.
End

FIG. 14

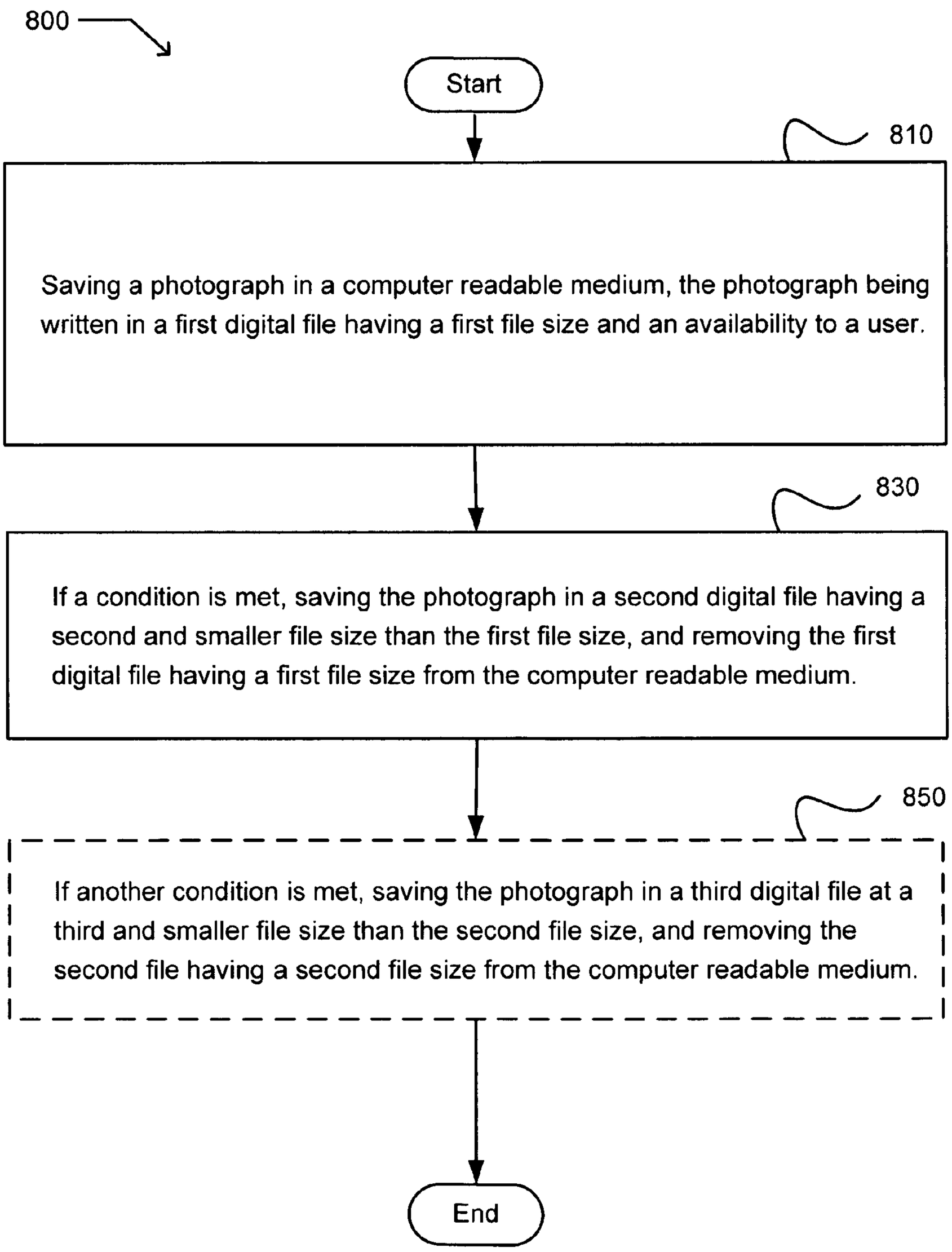

800
Start
810
Saving a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being written in a first digital file having a first file size and an availability to a user.
830
If a condition is met, saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size, and removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium.
850
If another condition is met, saving the photograph in a third digital file at a third and smaller file size than the second file size, and removing the second file having a second file size from the computer readable medium.
End

FIG. 15

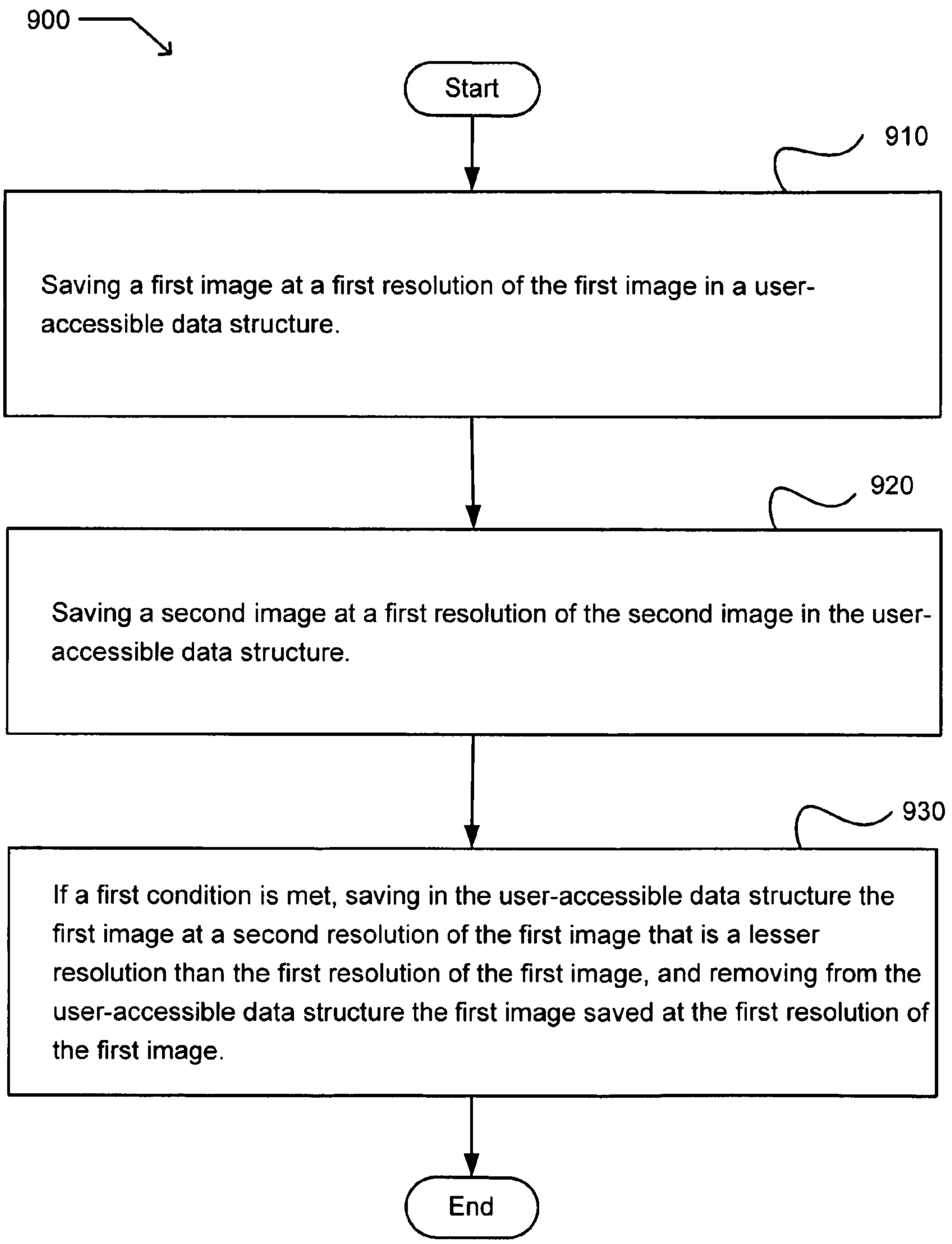

900
Start
910
Saving a first image at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure.
920
Saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure.
930
If a first condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image.
End

FIG. 16

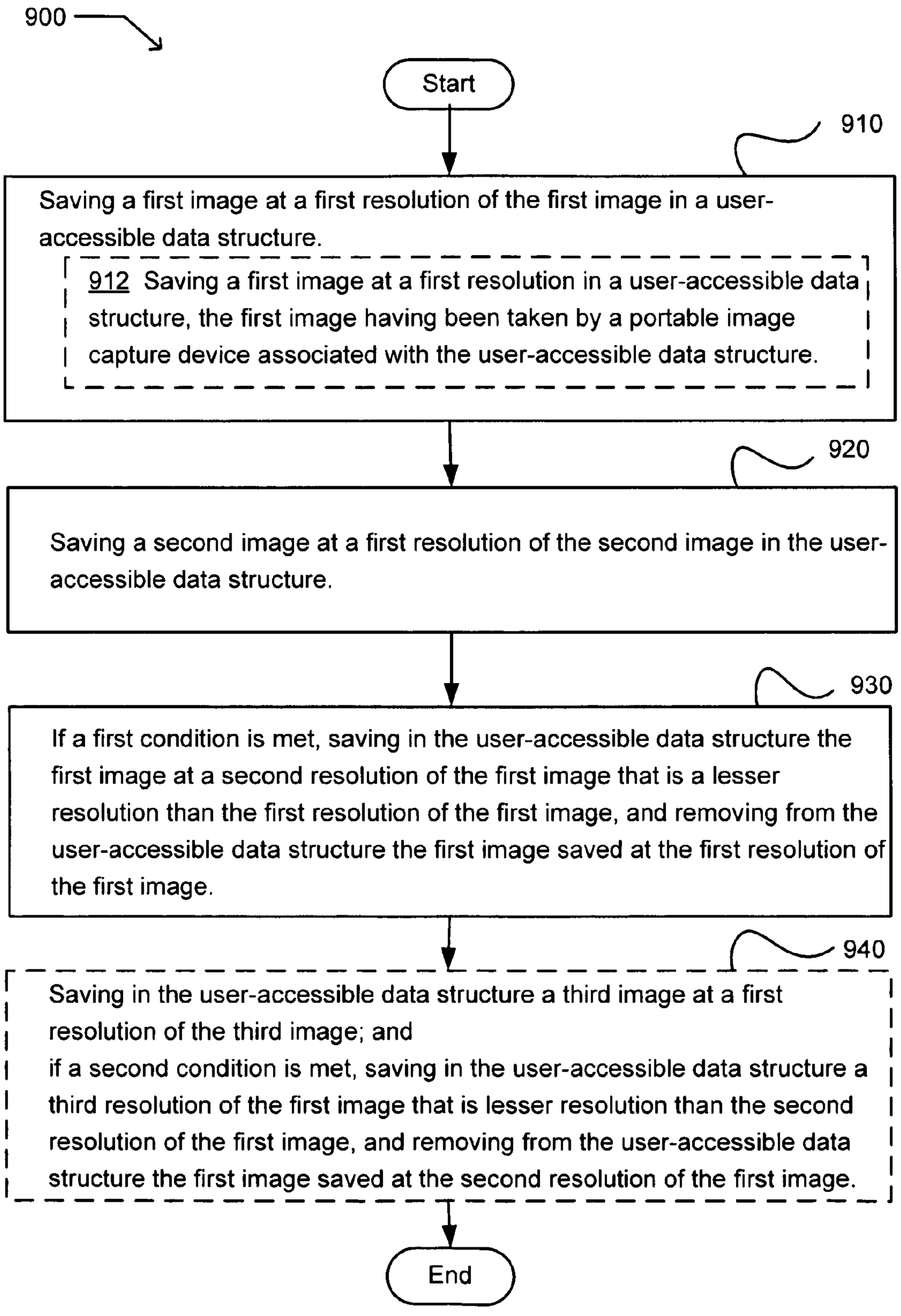

900
Start
910
Saving a first image at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure.
912 Saving a first image at a first resolution in a user-accessible data structure, the first image having been taken by a portable image capture device associated with the user-accessible data structure.
920
Saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure.
930
If a first condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image.
940
Saving in the user-accessible data structure a third image at a first resolution of the third image; and
if a second condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure a third resolution of the first image that is lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image.
End

FIG. 17

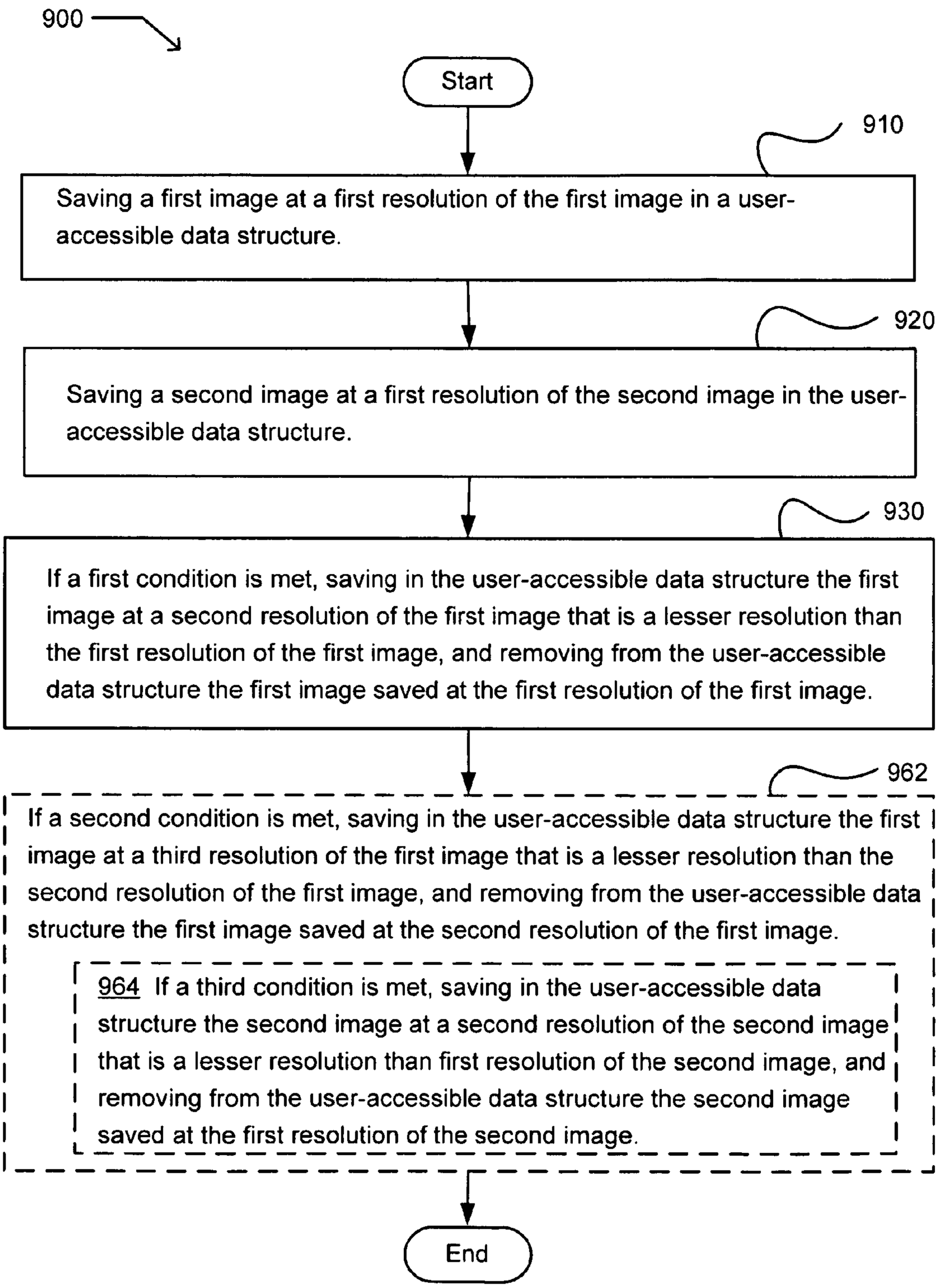

900
Start
910
Saving a first image at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure.
920
Saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure.
930
If a first condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image.
962
If a second condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a third resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image.
964 If a third condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the second image at a second resolution of the second image that is a lesser resolution than first resolution of the second image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the second image saved at the first resolution of the second image.
End

FIG. 18

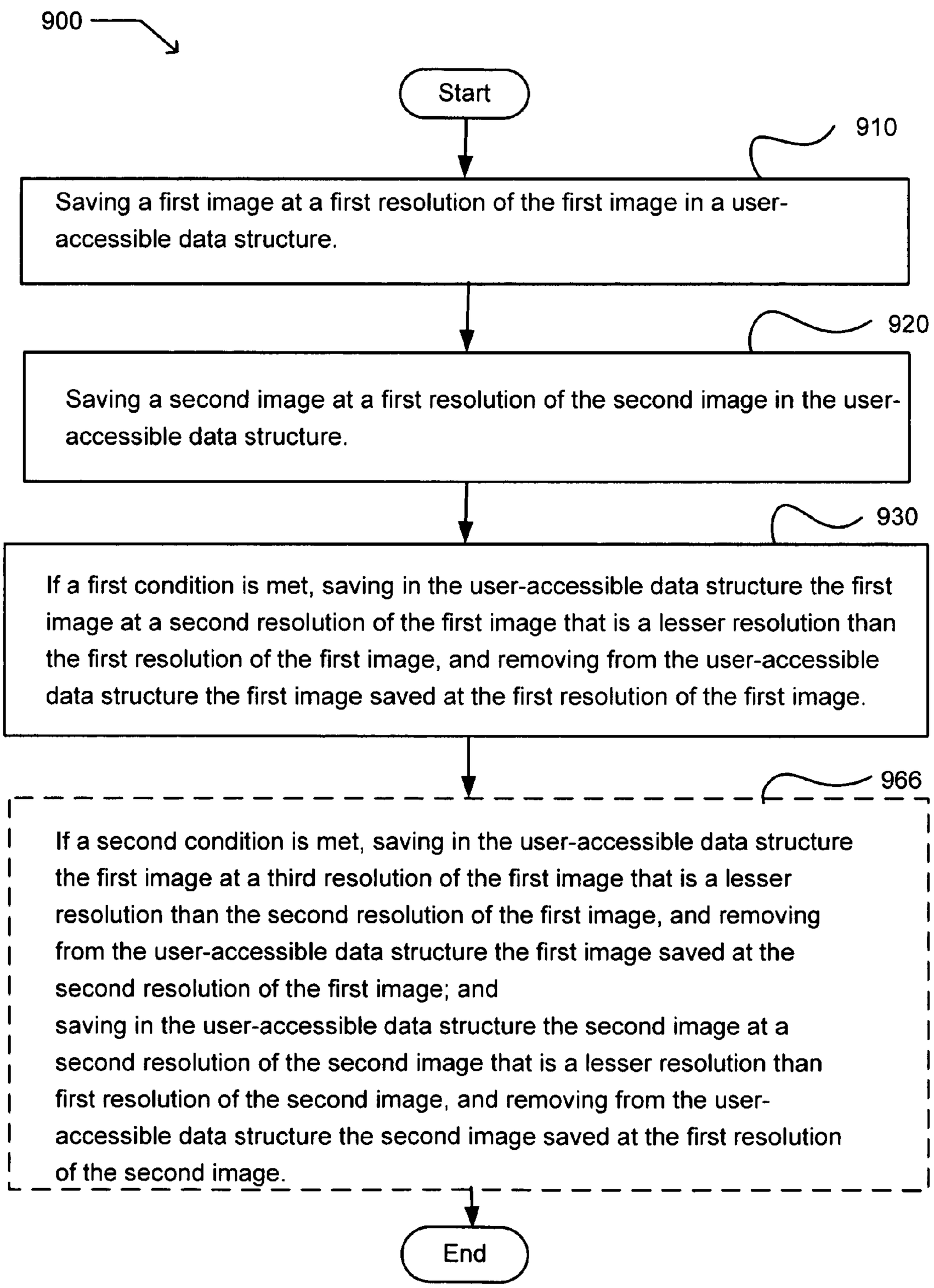
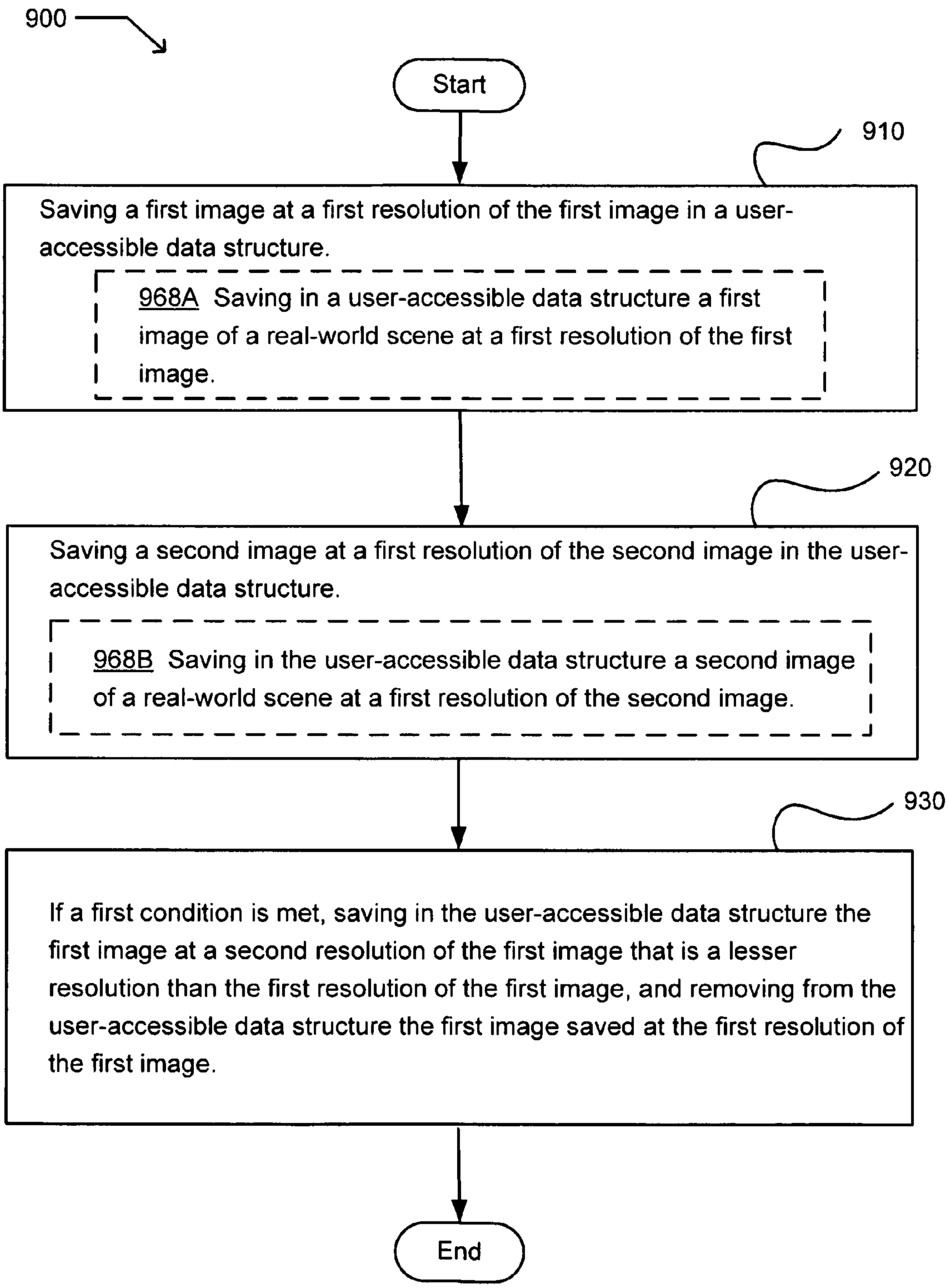

900
Start
910
Saving a first image at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure.
920
Saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure.
930
If a first condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image.
966
If a second condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a third resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image; and
saving in the user-accessible data structure the second image at a second resolution of the second image that is a lesser resolution than first resolution of the second image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the second image saved at the first resolution of the second image.
End

FIG. 19


900
Start
910
Saving a first image at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure.
968A Saving in a user-accessible data structure a first image of a real-world scene at a first resolution of the first image.
920
Saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure.
968B Saving in the user-accessible data structure a second image of a real-world scene at a first resolution of the second image.
930
If a first condition is met, saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image.
End

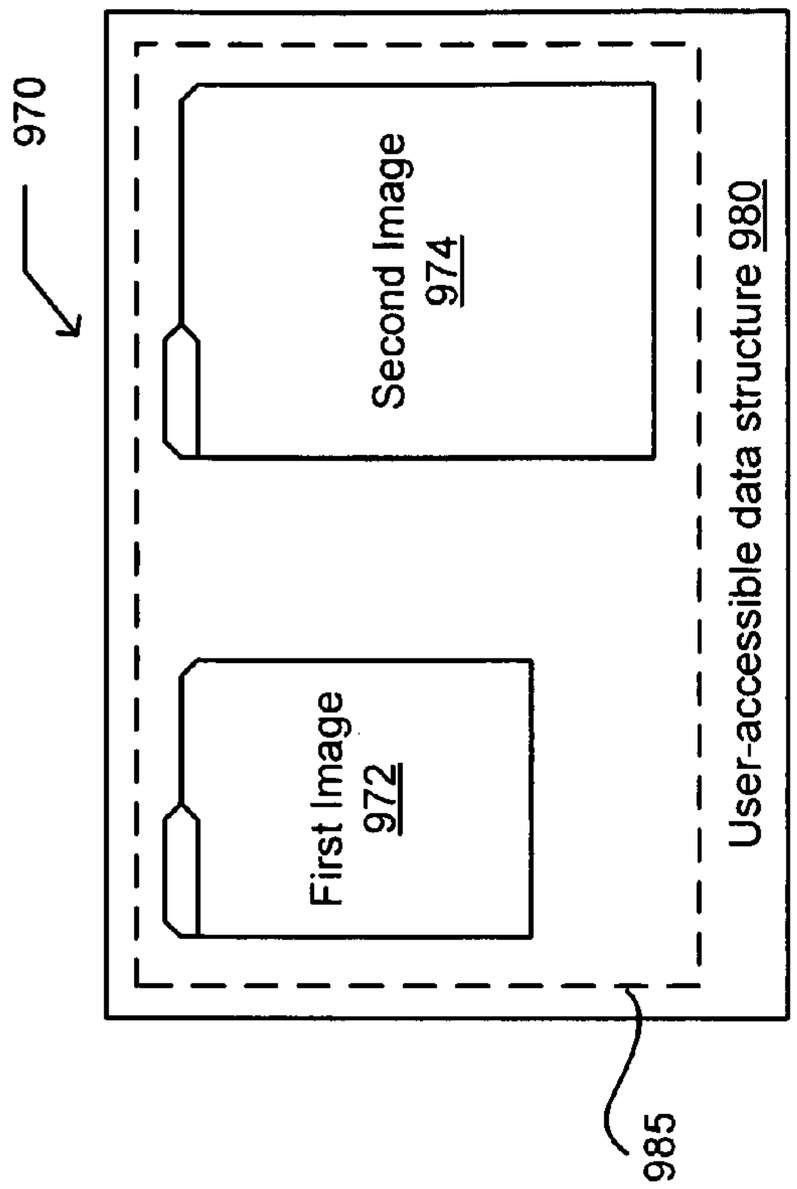


FIG.20B

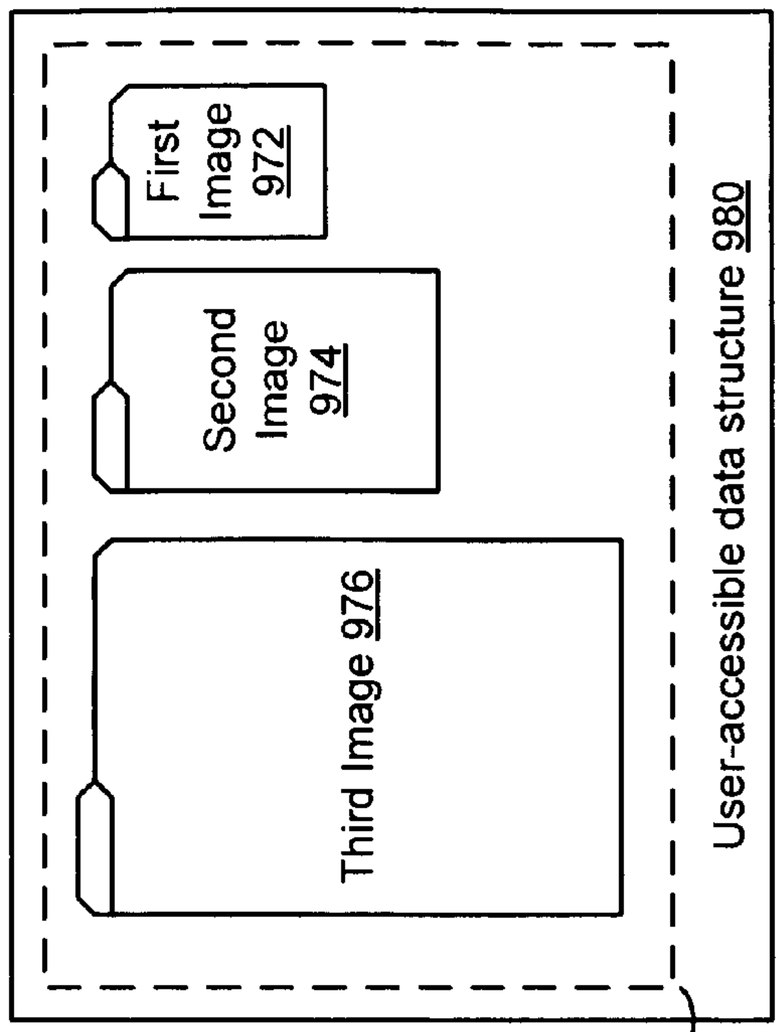


FIG. 20D

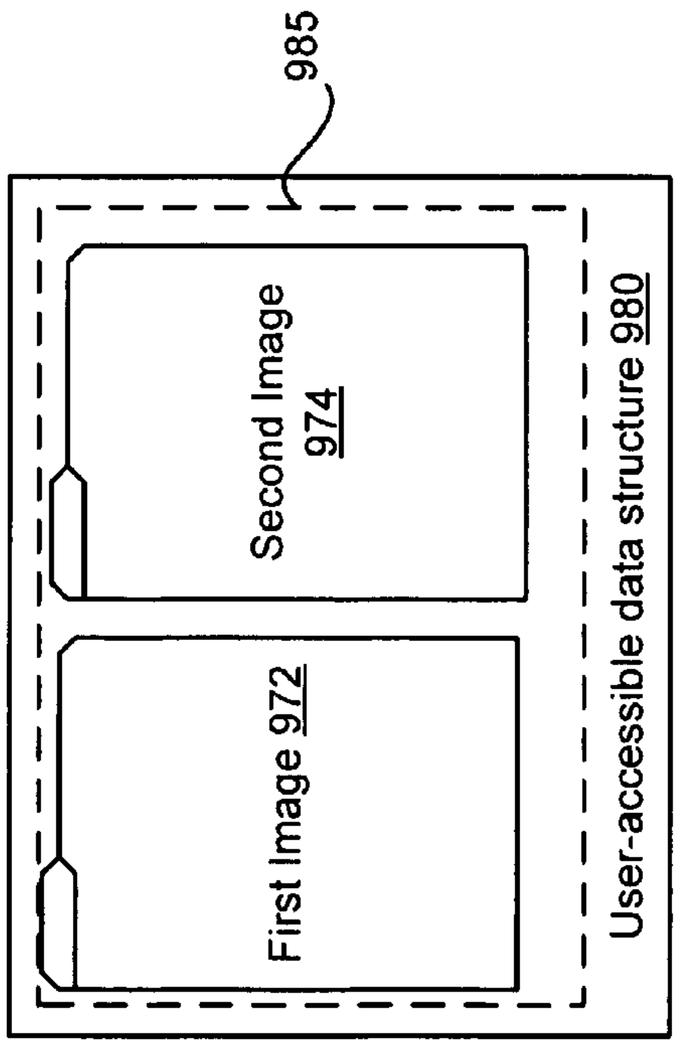


FIG. 20A

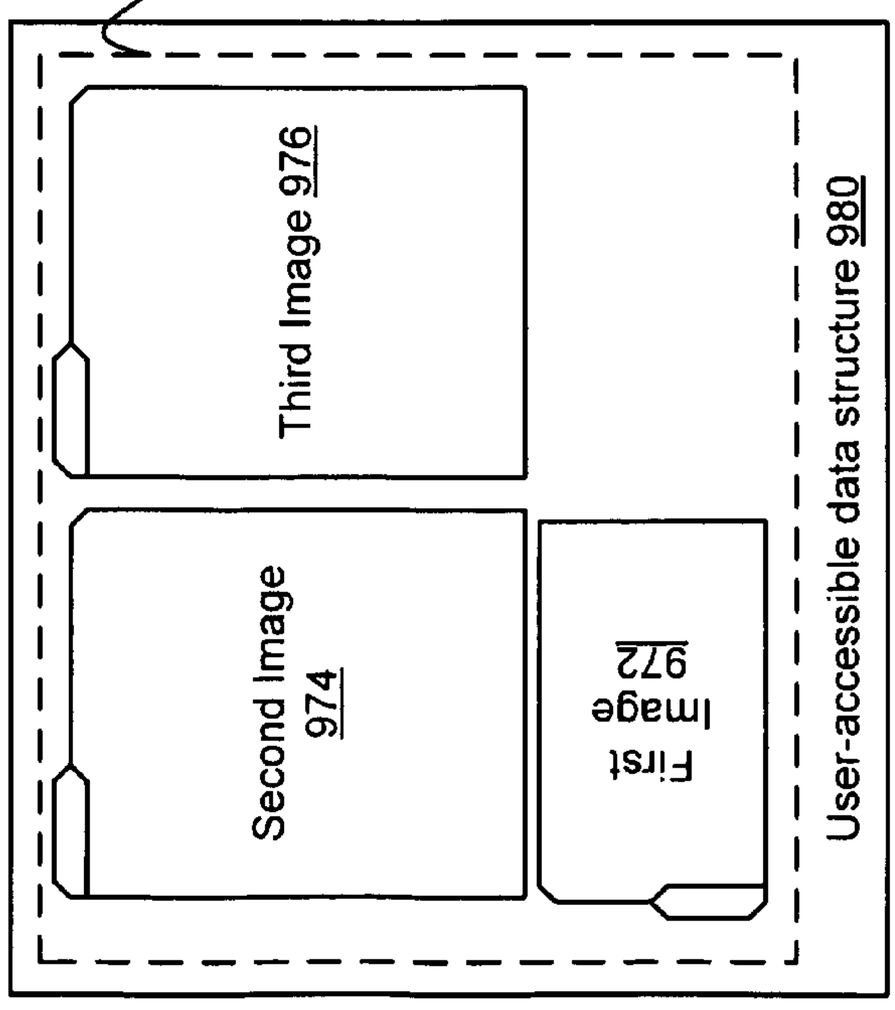


FIG. 20C

FIG. 21

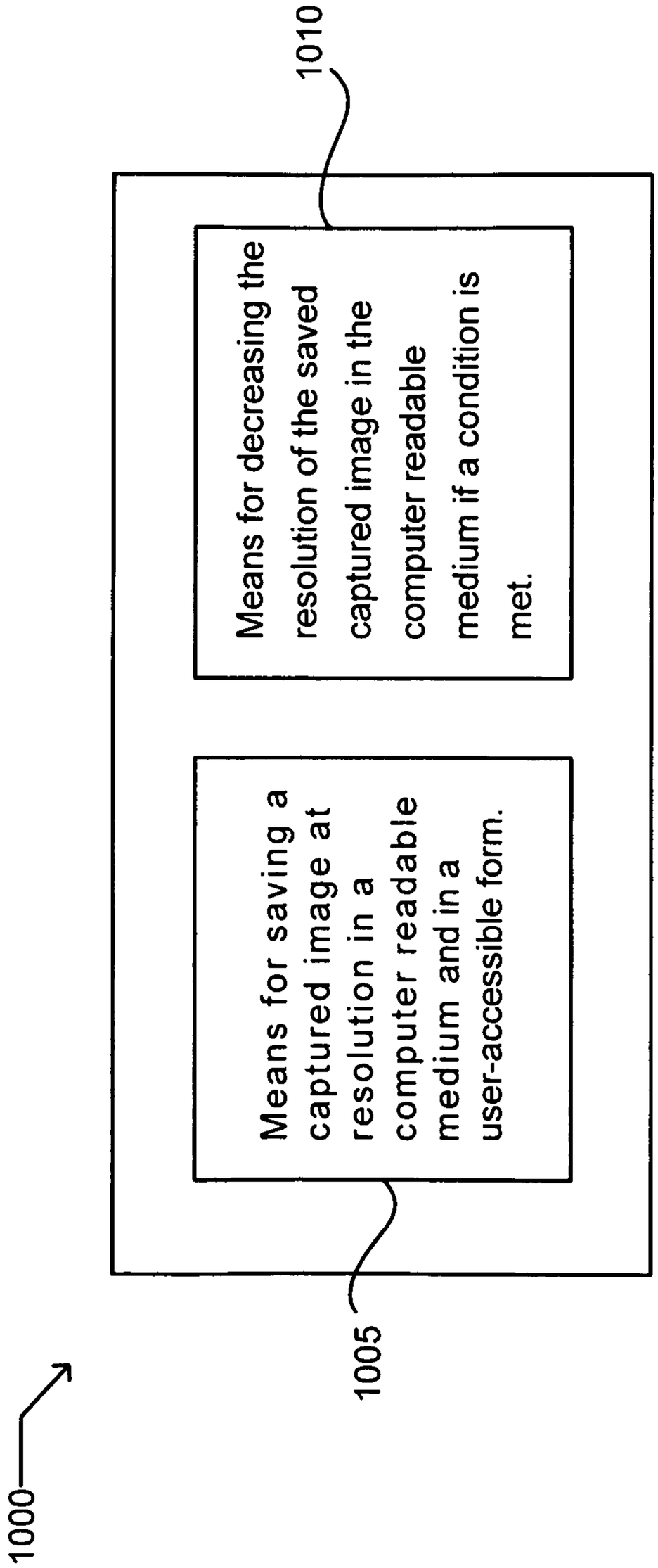

1010
Means for saving a captured image at resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form.
Means for decreasing the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.
1005
1000

FIG. 22

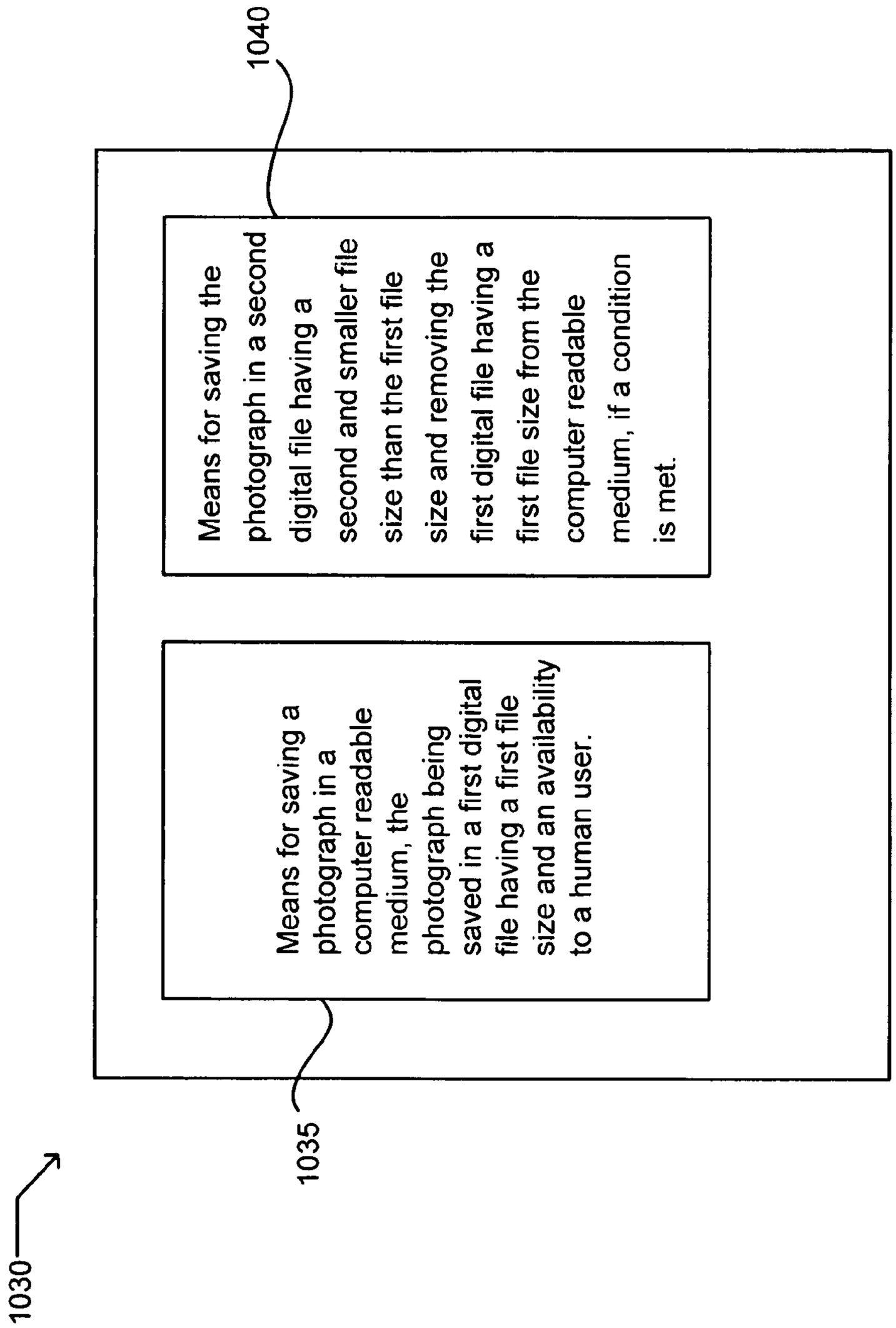

1040
Means for saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size and removing the size and removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium, if a condition is met.
Means for saving a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being saved in a first digital file having a first file size and an availability to a human user.
1035
1030

FIG. 23

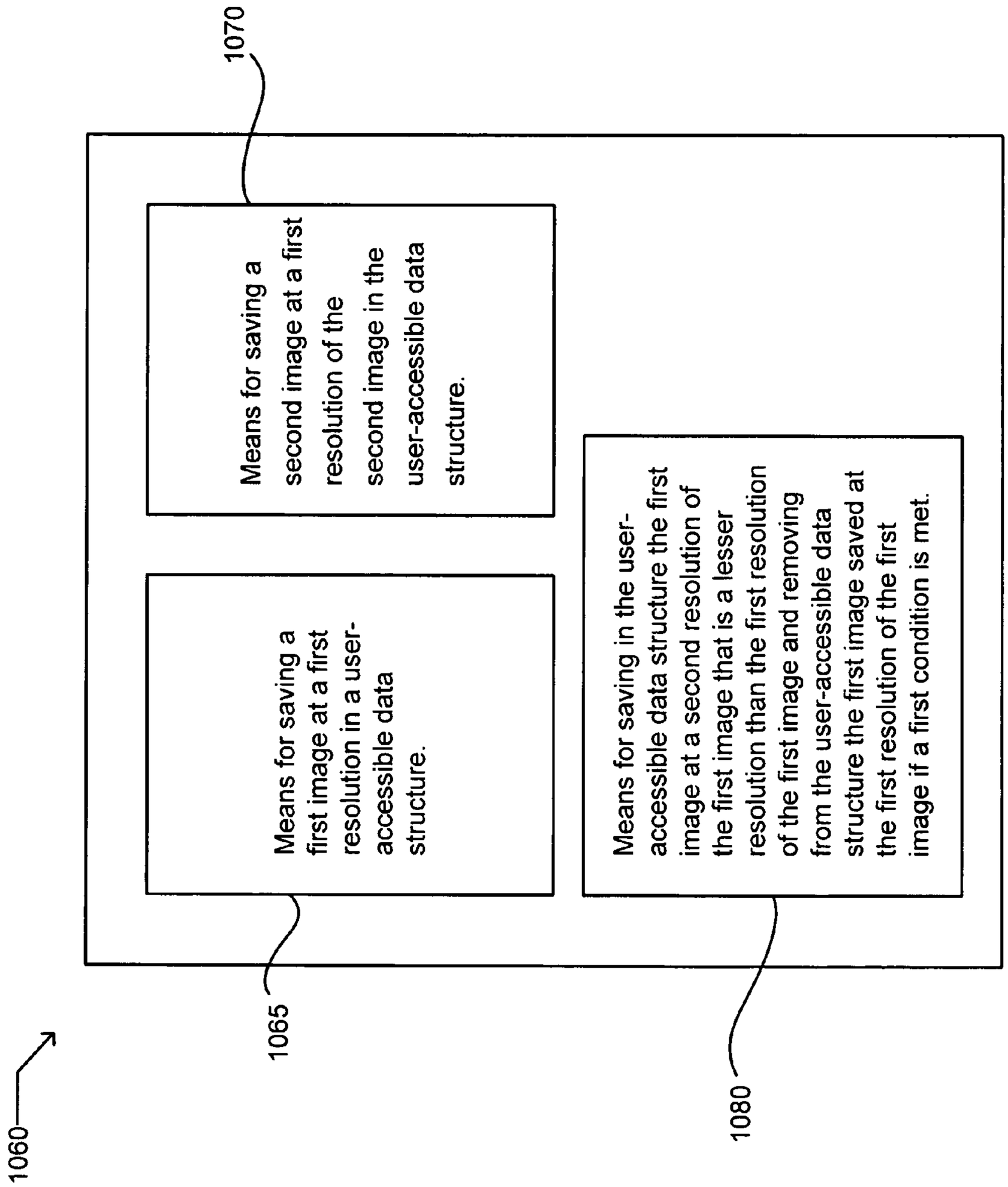

1060
1065
Means for saving a first image at a first resolution in a user-accessible data structure.
1070
Means for saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure.
1080
Means for saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image if a first condition is met.

FIG. 24

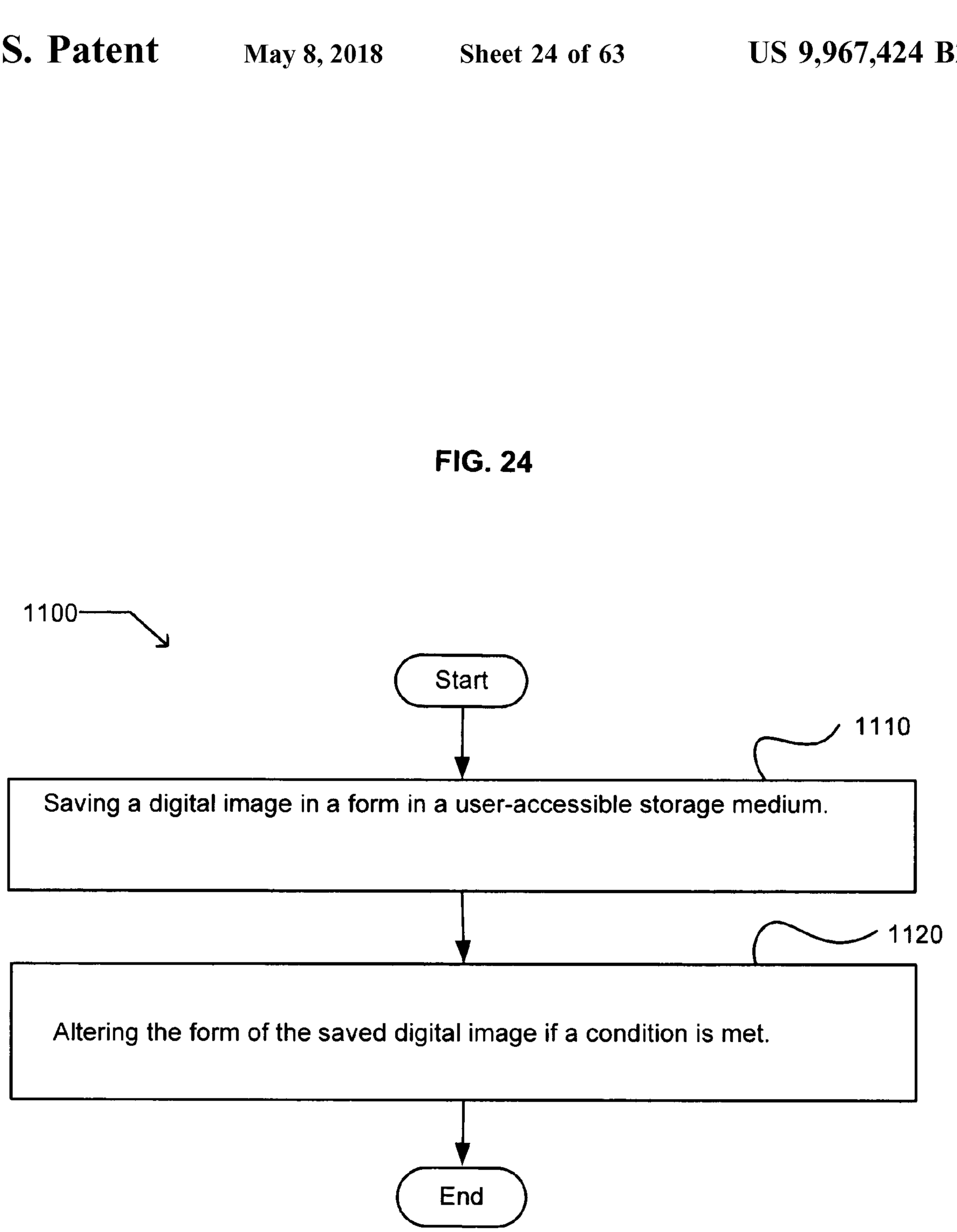

1100
Start
1110
Saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1120
Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
End

FIG. 25

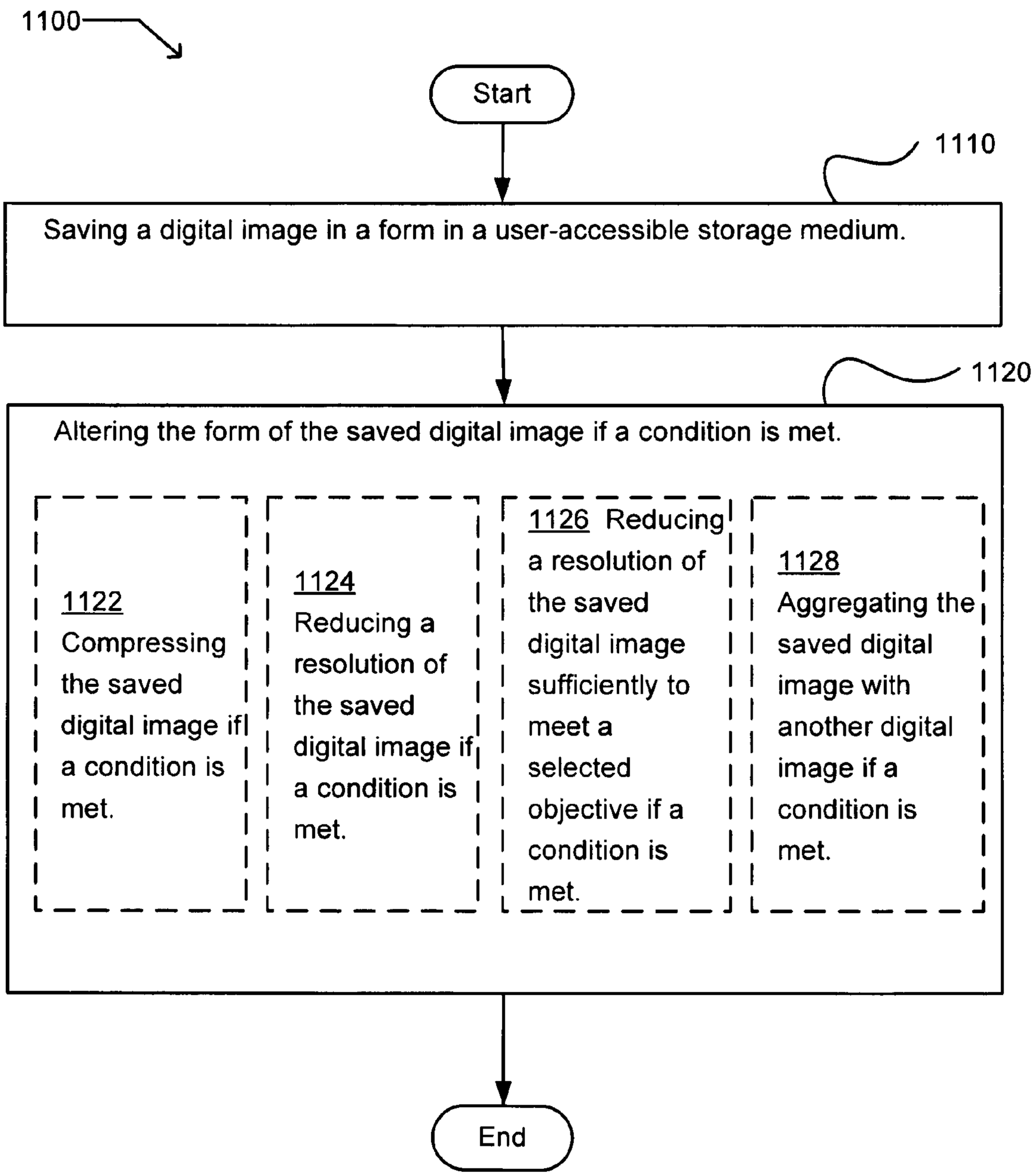

1100
Start
1110
Saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1120
Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1122 Compressing the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1124 Reducing a resolution of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1126 Reducing a resolution of the saved digital image sufficiently to meet a selected objective if a condition is met.
1128 Aggregating the saved digital image with another digital image if a condition is met.
End

FIG. 26

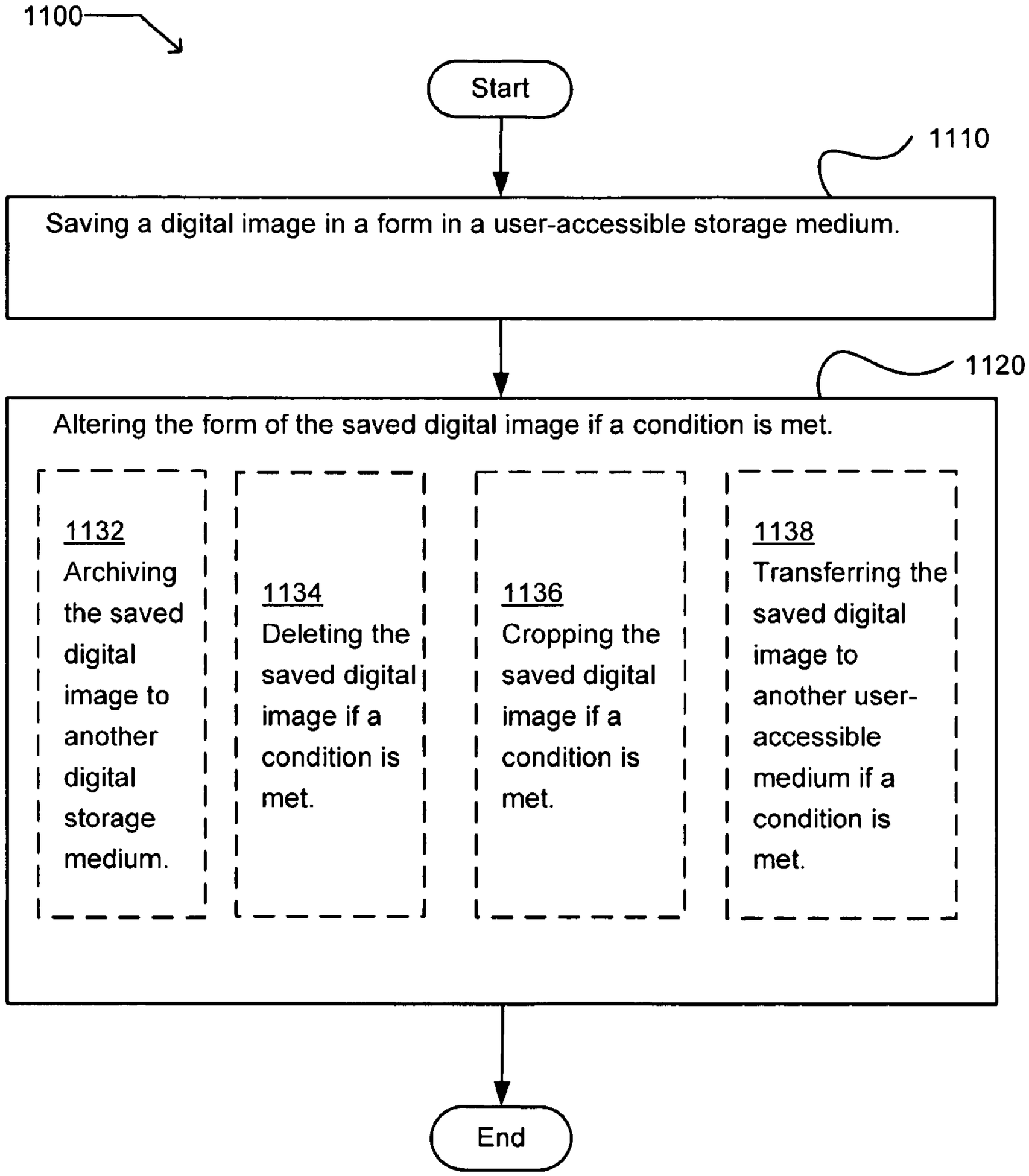

1100
Start
1110
Saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1120
Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1132
Archiving the saved digital image to another digital storage medium.
1134
Deleting the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1136
Cropping the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1138
Transferring the saved digital image to another user-accessible medium if a condition is met.
End

FIG. 27

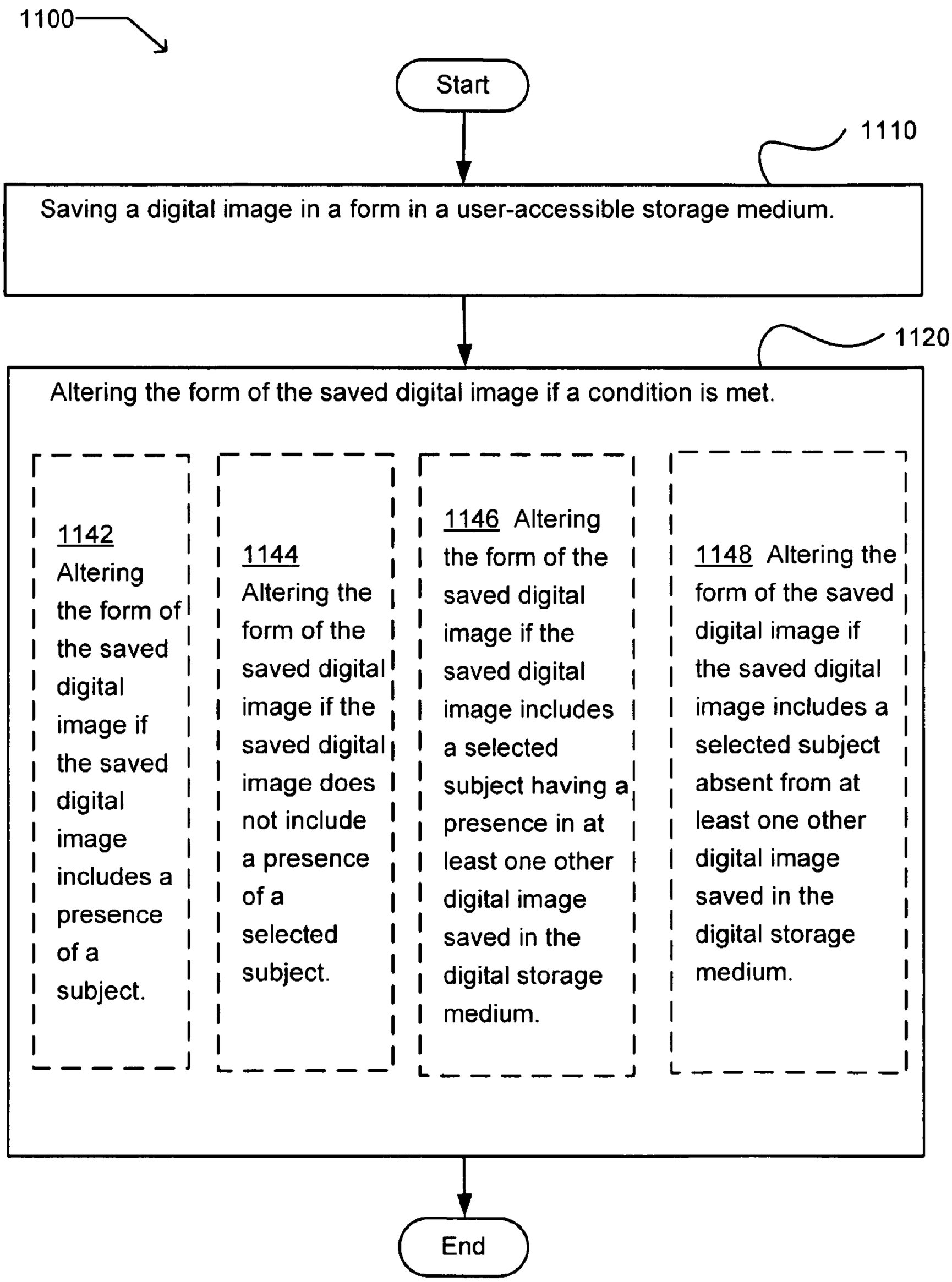

1100
Start
1110
Saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1120
Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1142 Altering the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image includes a presence of a subject.
1144 Altering the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image does not include a presence of a selected subject.
1146 Altering the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image includes a selected subject having a presence in at least one other digital image saved in the digital storage medium.
1148 Altering the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image includes a selected subject absent from at least one other digital image saved in the digital storage medium.
End

FIG. 28

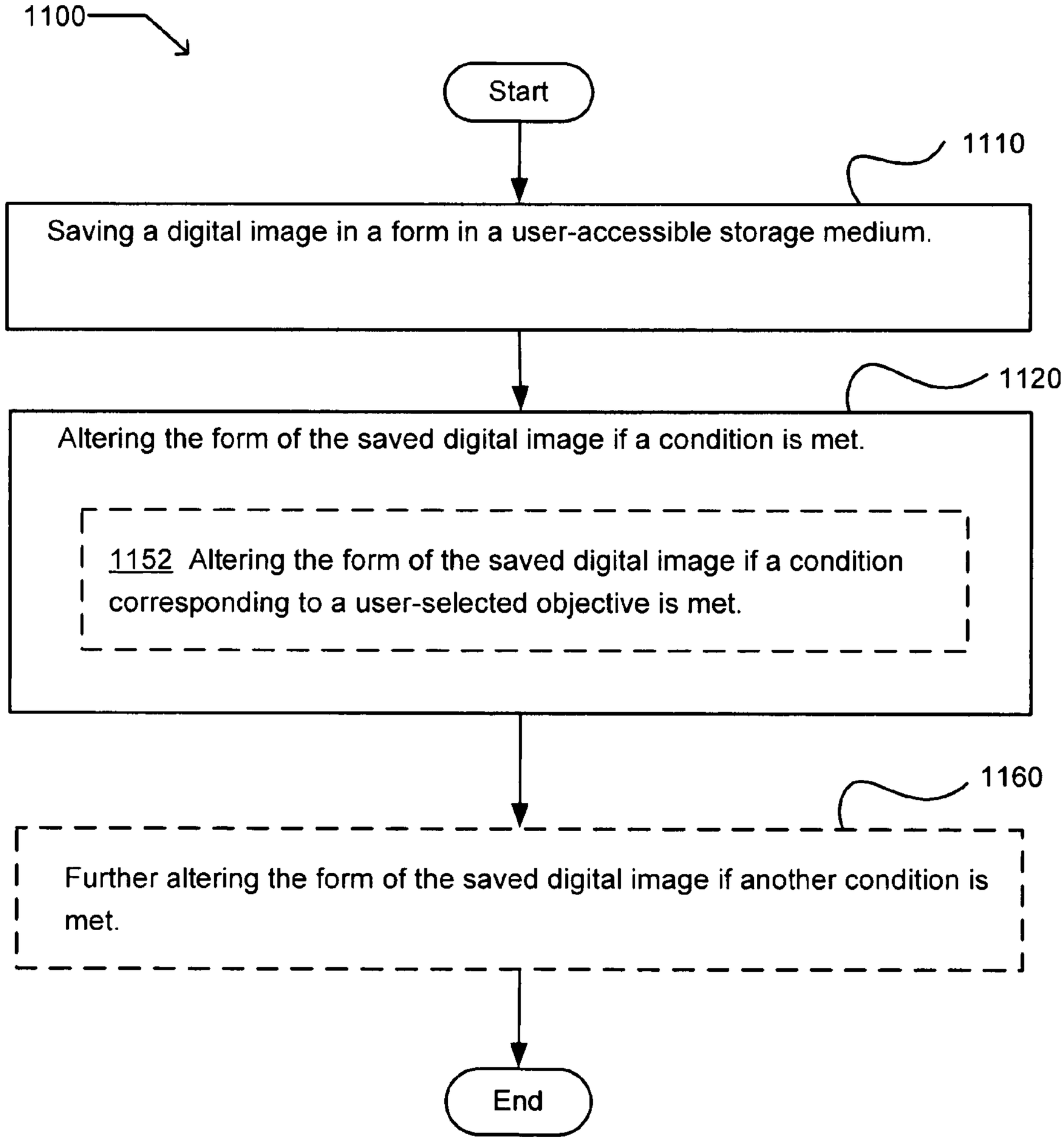

1100
Start
1110
Saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1120
Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1152 Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition corresponding to a user-selected objective is met.
1160
Further altering the form of the saved digital image if another condition is met.
End

FIG. 29

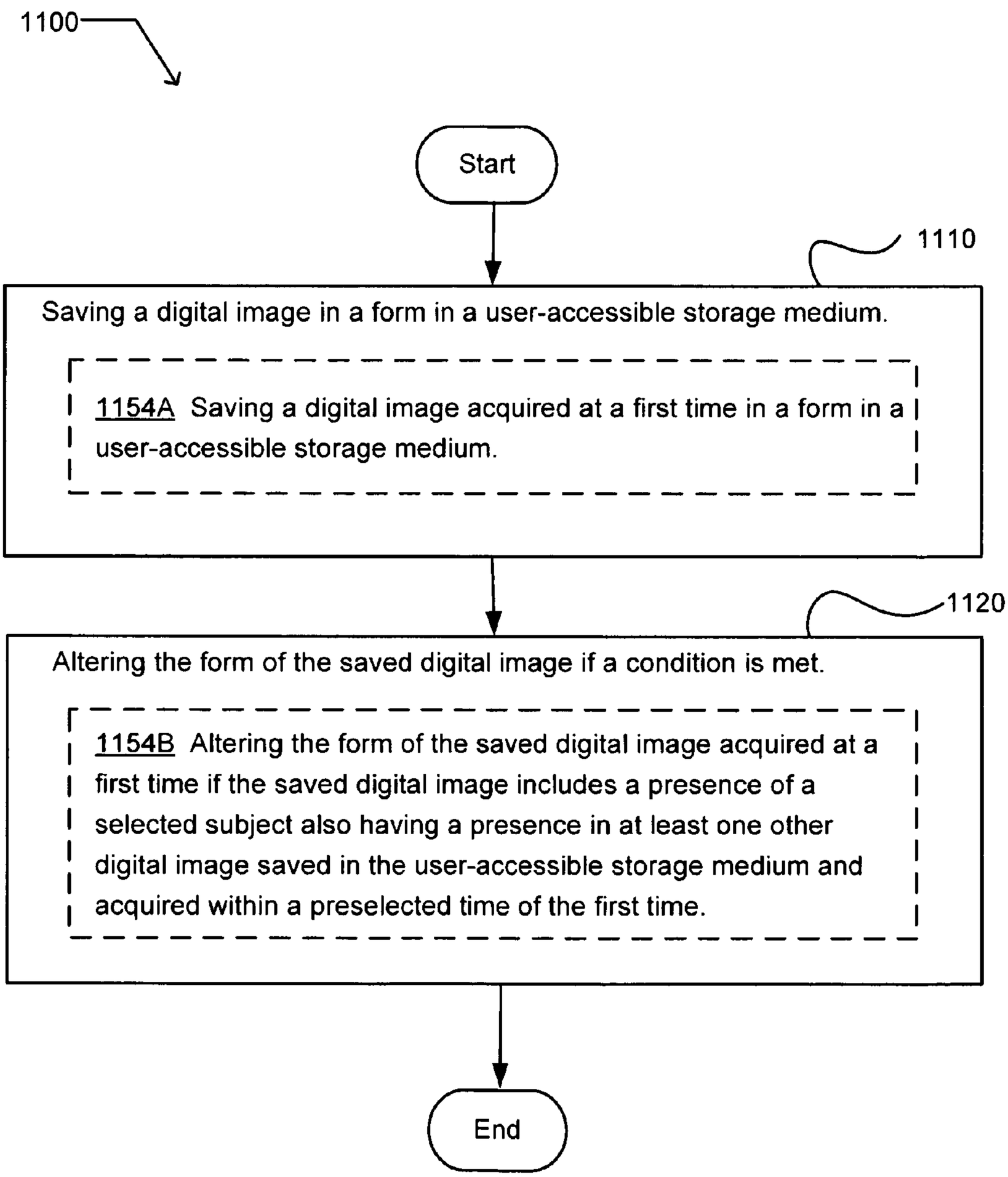

1100
Start
1110
Saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1154A Saving a digital image acquired at a first time in a form in a user-accessible storage medium.
1120
Altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.
1154B Altering the form of the saved digital image acquired at a first time if the saved digital image includes a presence of a selected subject also having a presence in at least one other digital image saved in the user-accessible storage medium and acquired within a preselected time of the first time.
End

FIG. 30

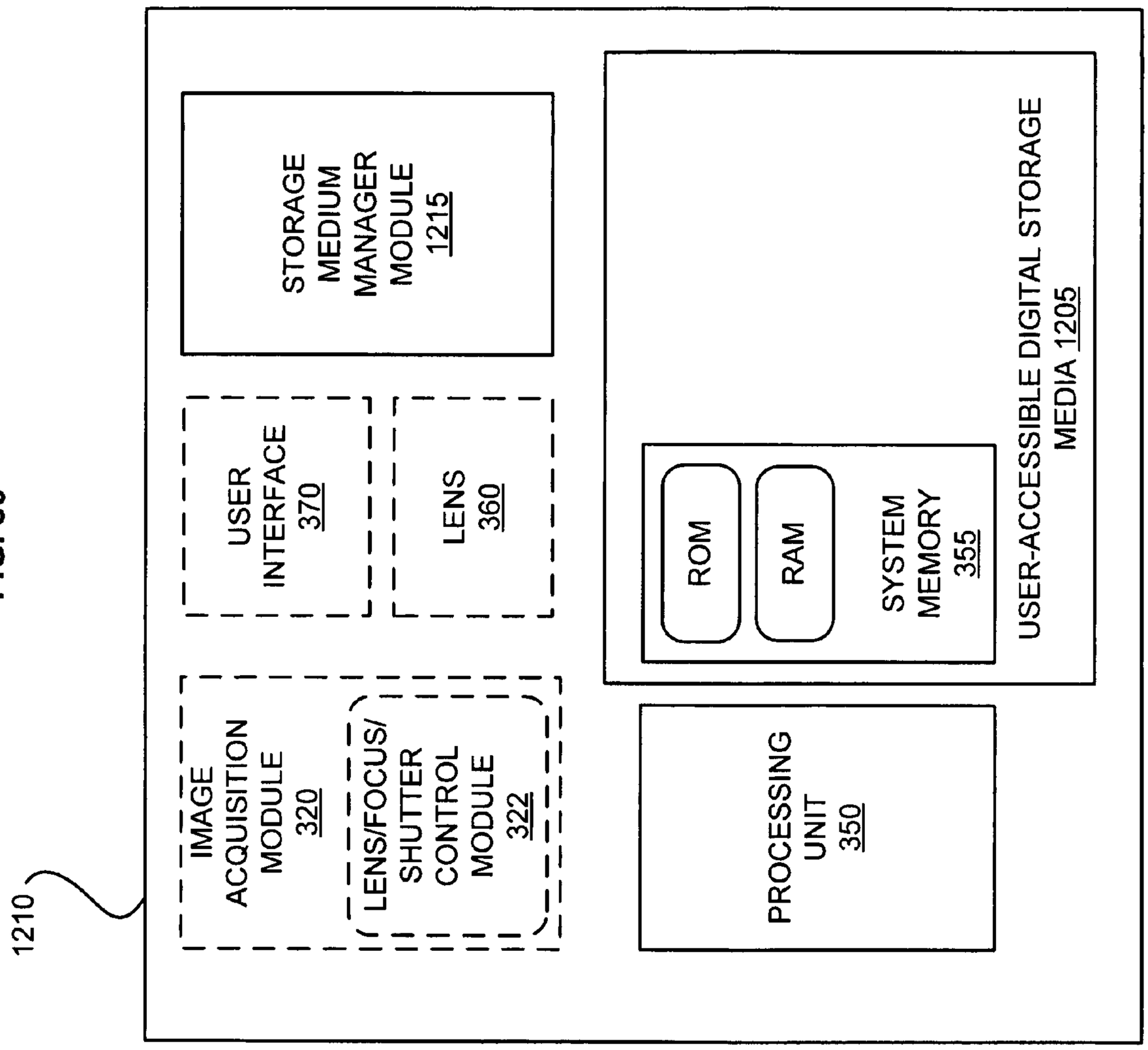

1210
IMAGE ACQUISITION MODULE 320
LENS/FOCUS/ SHUTTER CONTROL MODULE 322
USER INTERFACE 370
LENS 360
STORAGE MEDIUM MANAGER MODULE 1215
PROCESSING UNIT 350
ROM
RAM
SYSTEM MEMORY 355
USER-ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL STORAGE MEDIA 1205
1200

FIG. 31

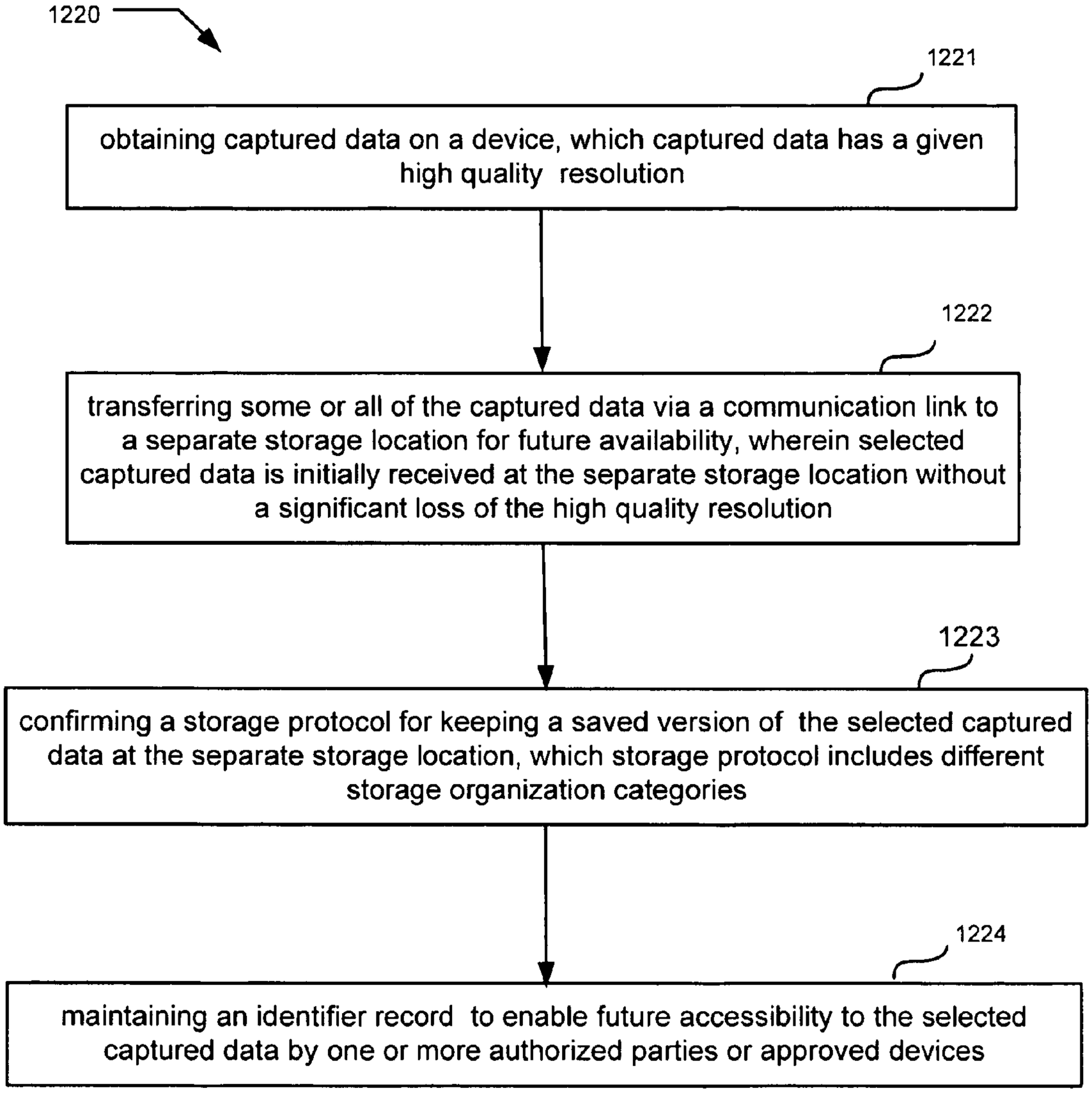

1220
1221
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1222
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1223
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1224
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices

FIG. 32

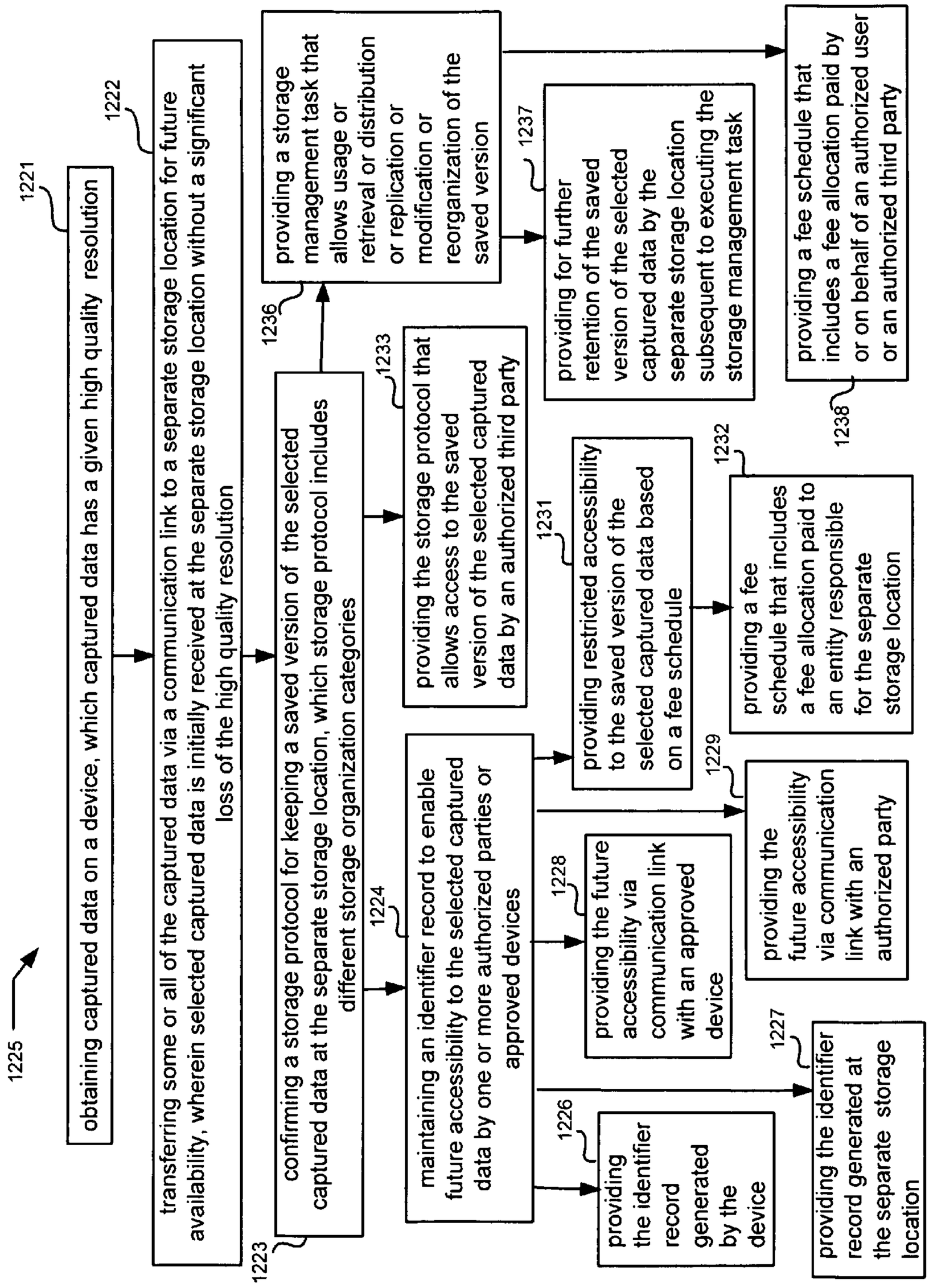

1225
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1221
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1222
1223
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1224
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices
1226
providing the identifier record generated by the device
1227
providing the identifier record generated at the separate storage location
1228
providing the future accessibility via communication link with an approved device
1229
providing the future accessibility via communication link with an authorized party
1231
providing restricted accessibility to the saved version of the selected captured data based on a fee schedule
1232
providing a fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage location
1233
providing the storage protocol that allows access to the saved version of the selected captured data by an authorized third party
1236
providing a storage management task that allows usage or retrieval or distribution or replication or modification or reorganization of the saved version
1237
providing for further retention of the saved version of the selected captured data by the separate storage location subsequent to executing the storage management task
1238
providing a fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid by or on behalf of an authorized user or an authorized third party

FIG. 33

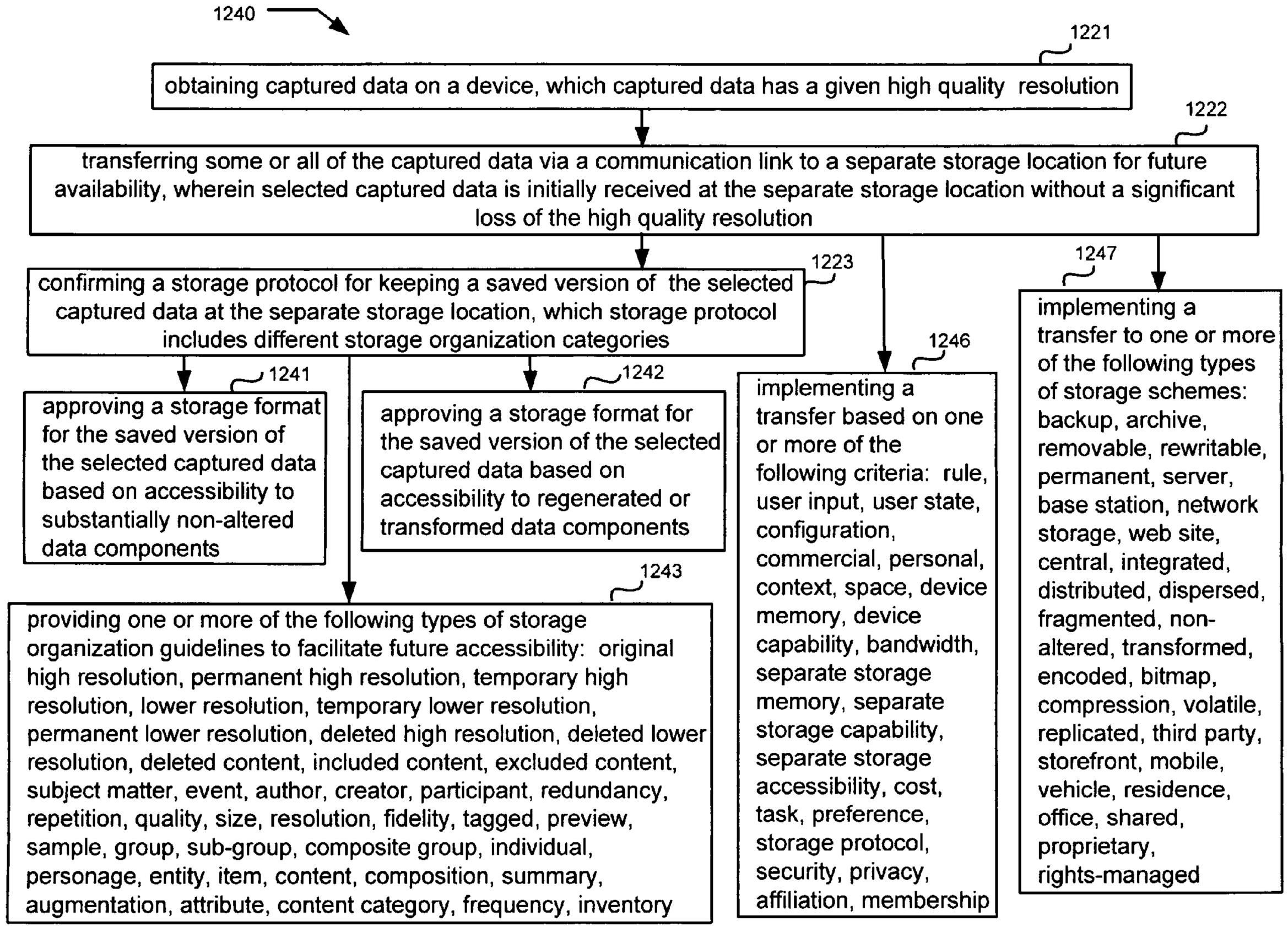

1240
1221
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1222
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1223
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1241
approving a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on accessibility to substantially non-altered data components
1242
approving a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on accessibility to regenerated or transformed data components
1243
providing one or more of the following types of storage organization guidelines to facilitate future accessibility: original high resolution, permanent high resolution, temporary high resolution, lower resolution, temporary lower resolution, permanent lower resolution, deleted high resolution, deleted lower resolution, deleted content, included content, excluded content, subject matter, event, author, creator, participant, redundancy, repetition, quality, size, resolution, fidelity, tagged, preview, sample, group, sub-group, composite group, individual, personage, entity, item, content, composition, summary, augmentation, attribute, content category, frequency, inventory
1246
implementing a transfer based on one or more of the following criteria: rule, user input, user state, configuration, commercial, personal, context, space, device memory, device capability, bandwidth, separate storage memory, separate storage capability, separate storage accessibility, cost, task, preference, storage protocol, security, privacy, affiliation, membership
1247
implementing a transfer to one or more of the following types of storage schemes: backup, archive, removable, rewritable, permanent, server, base station, network storage, web site, central, integrated, distributed, dispersed, fragmented, non-altered, transformed, encoded, bitmap, compression, volatile, replicated, third party, storefront, mobile, vehicle, residence, office, shared, proprietary, rights-managed

FIG. 34

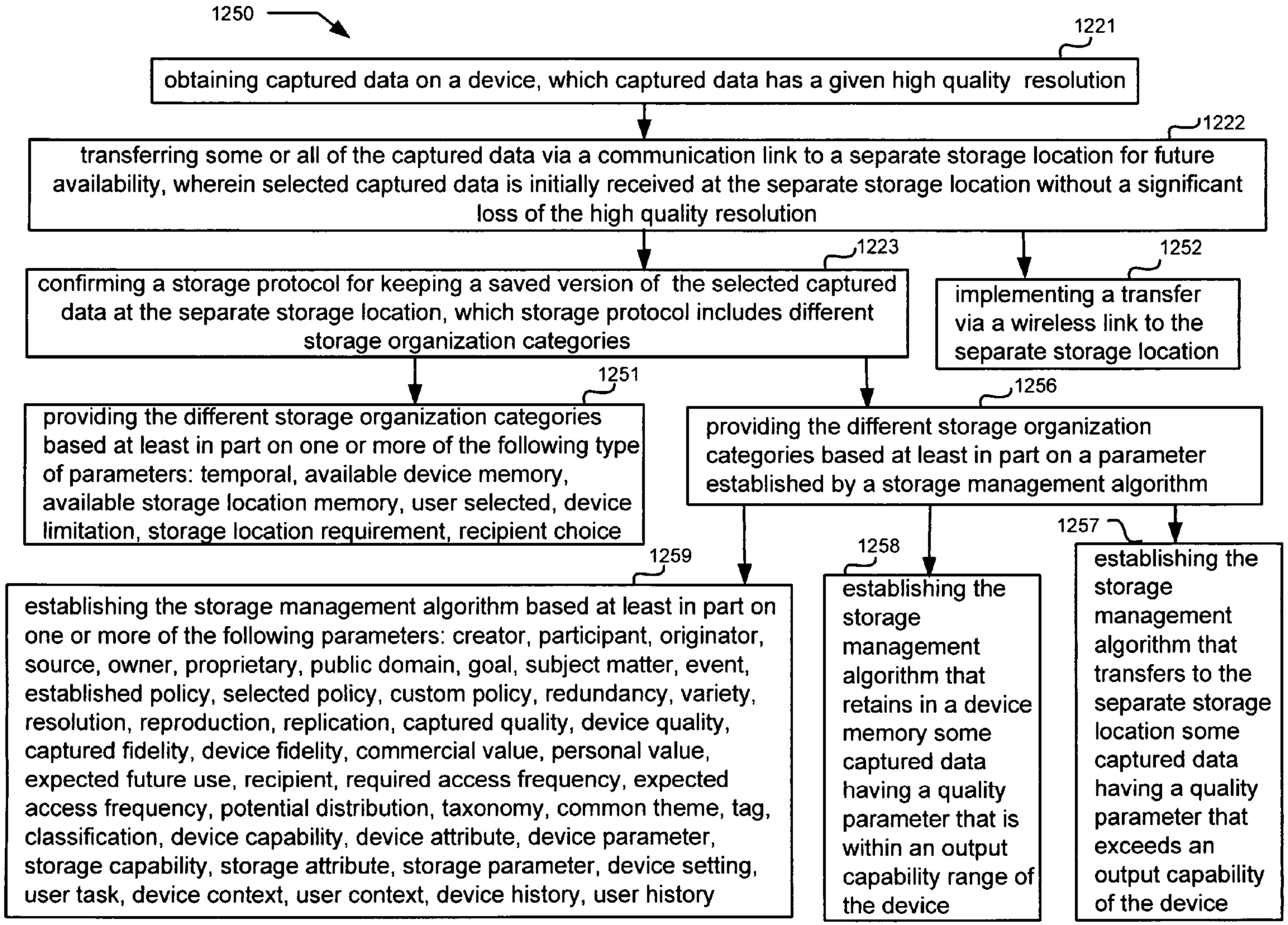

1250
1221
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1222
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1223
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1252
implementing a transfer via a wireless link to the separate storage location
1251
providing the different storage organization categories based at least in part on one or more of the following type of parameters: temporal, available device memory, available storage location memory, user selected, device limitation, storage location requirement, recipient choice
1256
providing the different storage organization categories based at least in part on a parameter established by a storage management algorithm
1259
establishing the storage management algorithm based at least in part on one or more of the following parameters: creator, participant, originator, source, owner, proprietary, public domain, goal, subject matter, event, established policy, selected policy, custom policy, redundancy, variety, resolution, reproduction, replication, captured quality, device quality, captured fidelity, device fidelity, commercial value, personal value, expected future use, recipient, required access frequency, expected access frequency, potential distribution, taxonomy, common theme, tag, classification, device capability, device attribute, device parameter, storage capability, storage attribute, storage parameter, device setting, user task, device context, user context, device history, user history
1258
establishing the storage management algorithm that retains in a device memory some captured data having a quality parameter that is within an output capability range of the device
1257
establishing the storage management algorithm that transfers to the separate storage location some captured data having a quality parameter that exceeds an output capability of the device

FIG. 35

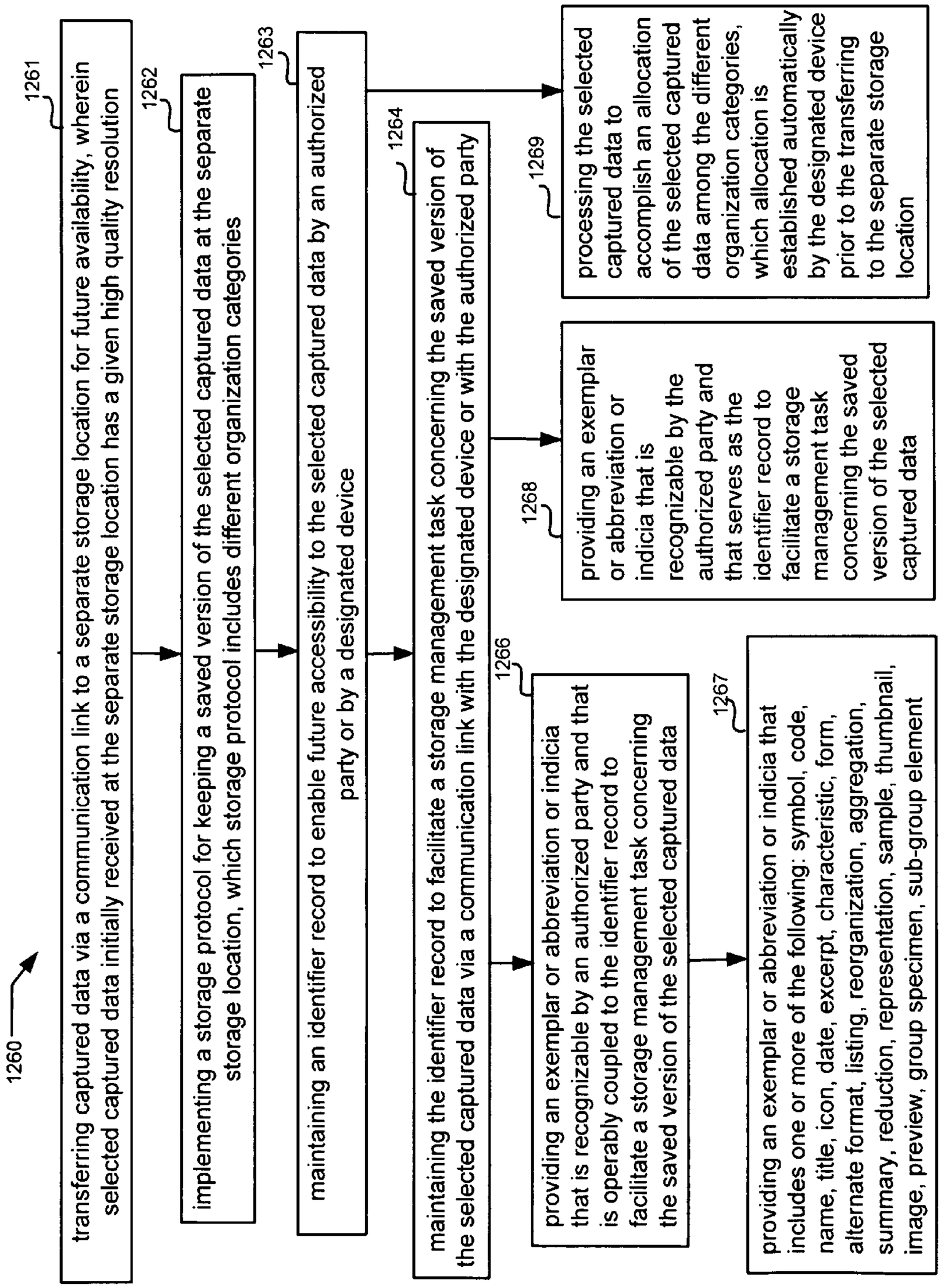

1260
transferring captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data initially received at the separate storage location has a given high quality resolution
1261
implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different organization categories
1262
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by an authorized party or by a designated device
1263
maintaining the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version via a communication link with the designated device or with the authorized party
1264
providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that is recognizable by an authorized party and that is operably coupled to the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data
1266
providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that includes one or more of the following: symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element
1267
providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that is recognizable by the authorized party and that serves as the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data
1268
processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among the different organization categories, which allocation is established automatically by the designated device prior to the transferring to the separate storage location
1269

FIG. 36

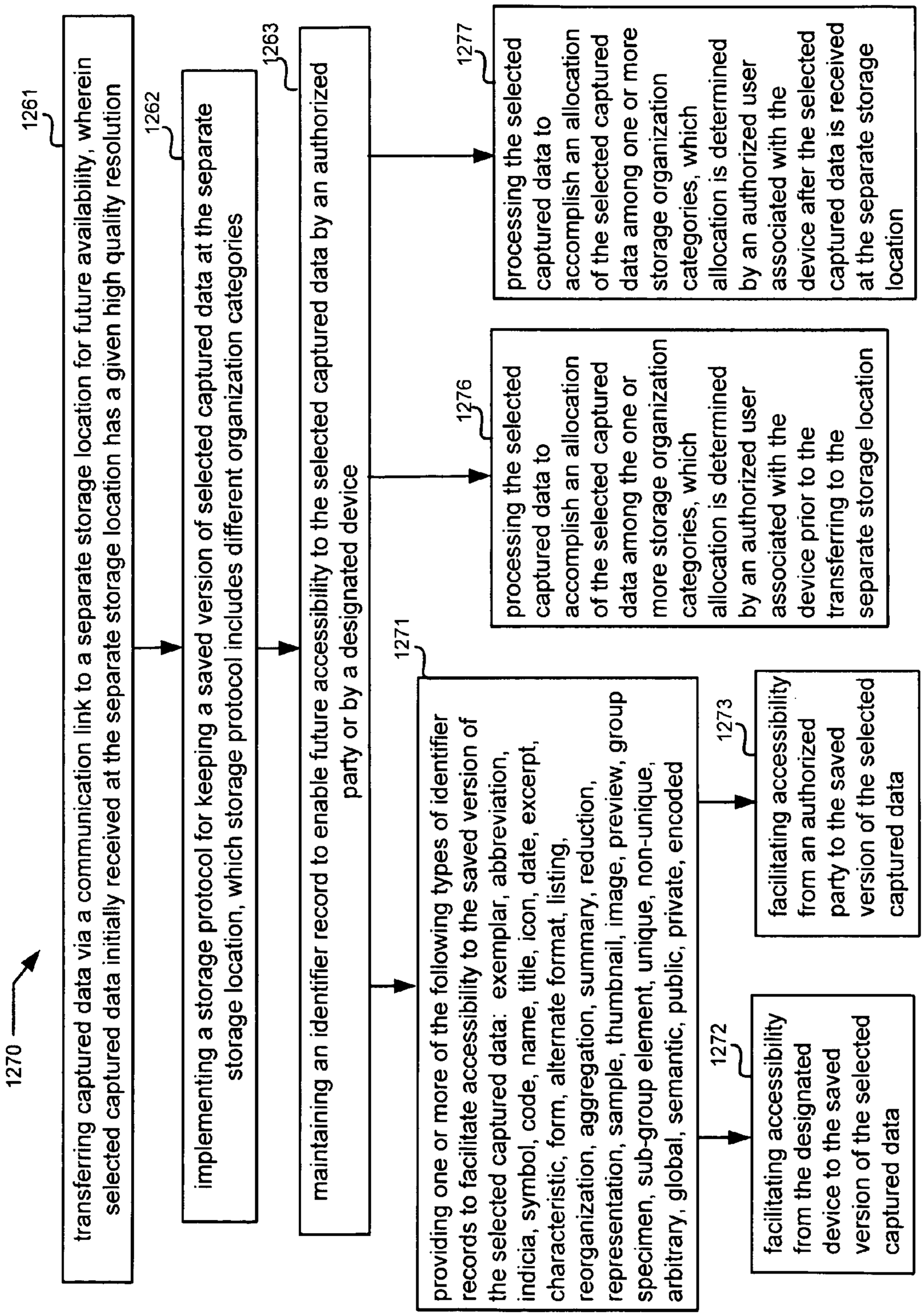

1270
transferring captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data initially received at the separate storage location has a given high quality resolution
1261
implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different organization categories
1262
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by an authorized party or by a designated device
1263
providing one or more of the following types of identifier records to facilitate accessibility to the saved version of the selected captured data: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, encoded
1271
facilitating accessibility from the designated device to the saved version of the selected captured data
1272
facilitating accessibility from an authorized party to the saved version of the selected captured data
1273
processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among one or more storage organization categories, which allocation is determined by an authorized user associated with the device prior to the transferring to the separate storage location
1276
processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among one or more storage organization categories, which allocation is determined by an authorized user associated with the device after the selected captured data is received at the separate storage location
1277

FIG. 37

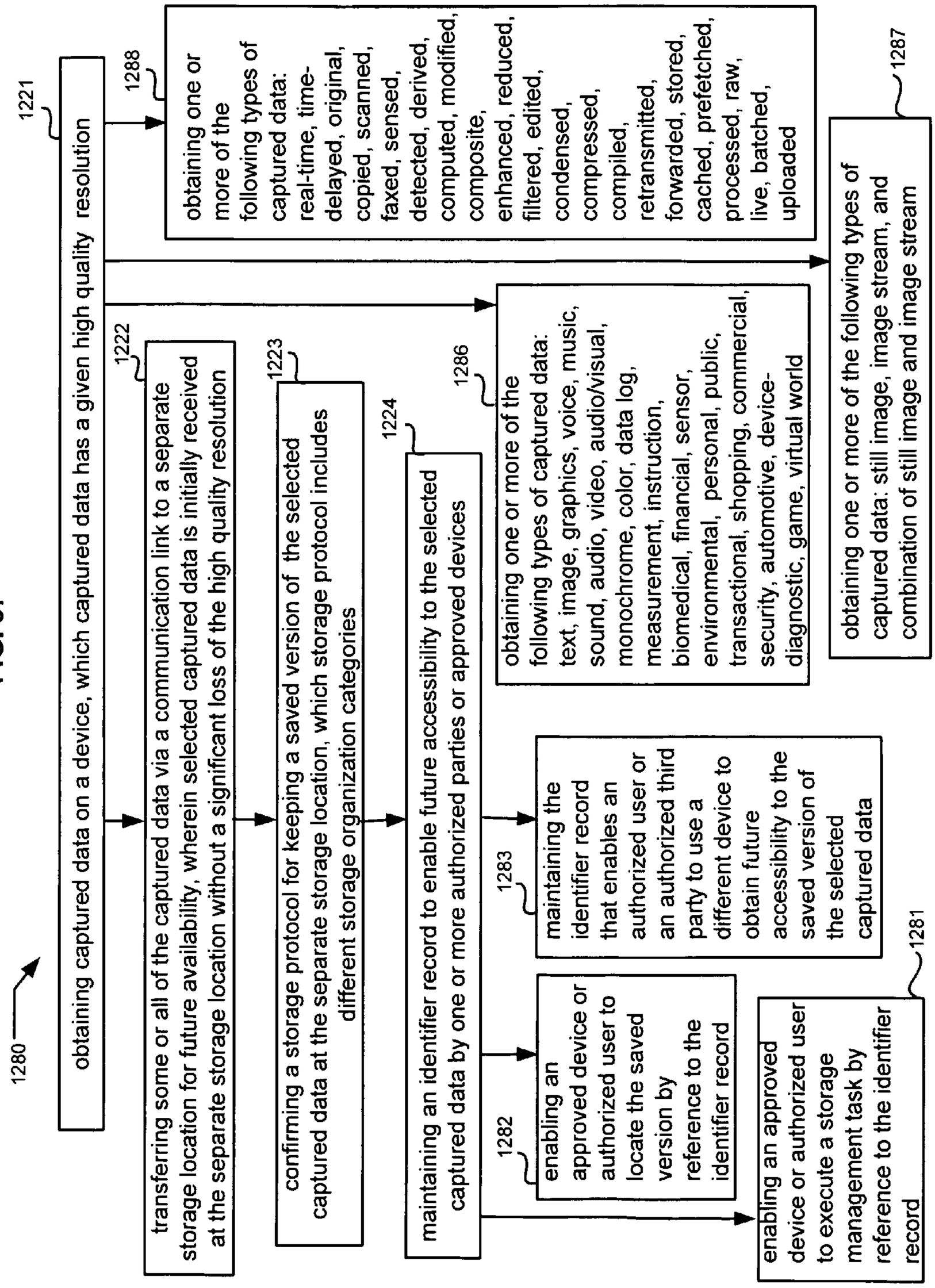

1280
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1221
1281
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1222
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1223
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices
1224
1282
enabling an approved device or authorized user to locate the saved version by reference to the identifier record
1283
maintaining the identifier record that enables an authorized user or an authorized third party to use a different device to obtain future accessibility to the saved version of the selected captured data
1285
enabling an approved device or authorized user to execute a storage management task by reference to the identifier record
1286
obtaining one or more of the following types of captured data: text, image, graphics, voice, music, sound, audio, video, audio/visual, monochrome, color, data log, measurement, instruction, biomedical, financial, sensor, environmental, personal, public, transactional, shopping, commercial, security, automotive, device-diagnostic, game, virtual world
1287
obtaining one or more of the following types of captured data: still image, image stream, and combination of still image and image stream
1288
obtaining one or more of the following types of captured data: still image, image stream, and combination of still image and image stream

FIG. 38

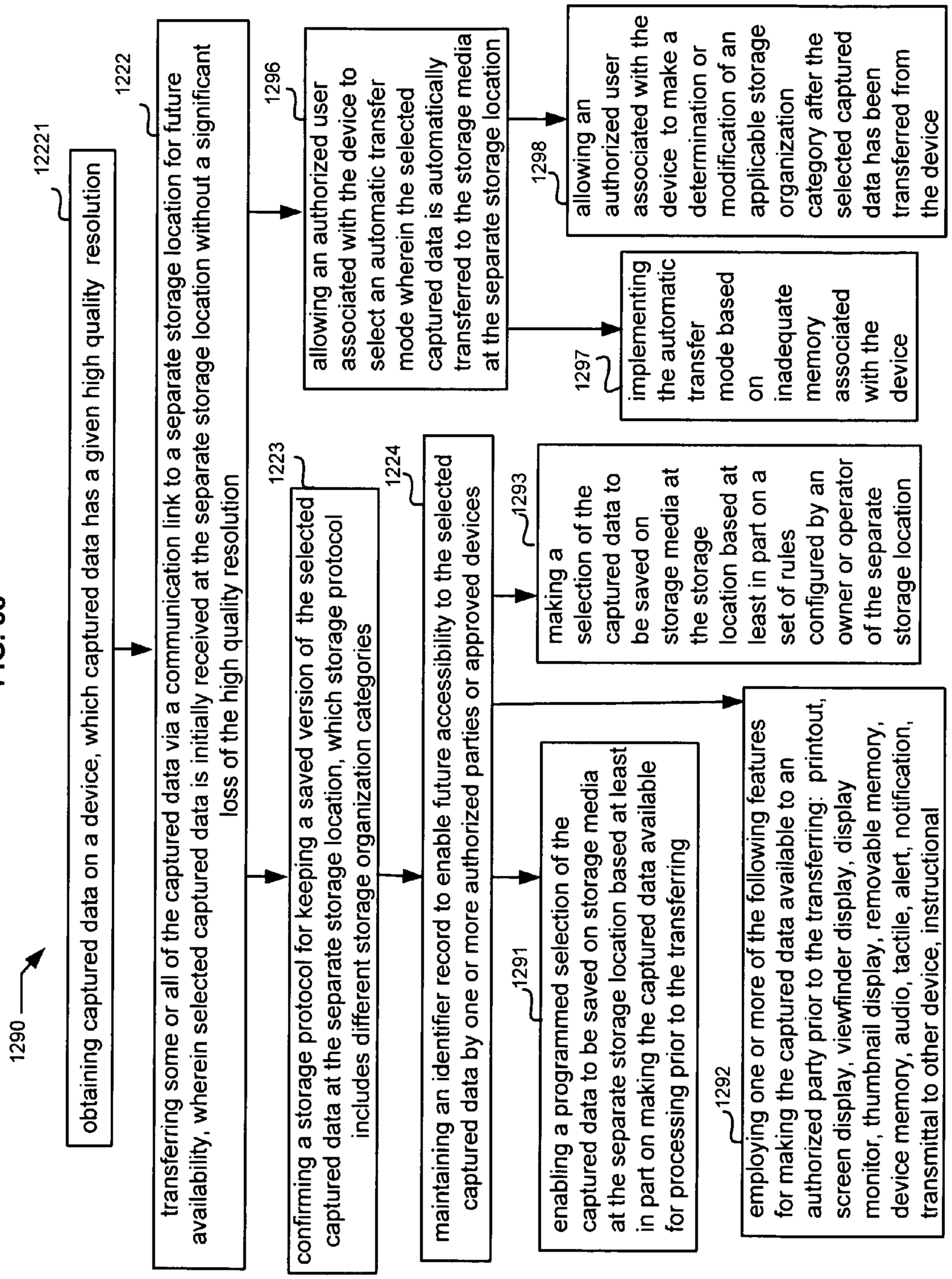

1290
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
12221
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1222
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1223
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices
1224
enabling a programmed selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available for processing prior to the transferring
1291
employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to an authorized party prior to the transferring: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, instructional
1292
making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an owner or operator of the separate storage location
1293
allowing an authorized user associated with the device to make a determination or modification of an applicable storage organization category after the selected captured data has been transferred from the device
1298
implementing the automatic transfer mode based on inadequate memory associated with the device
1297
allowing an authorized user associated with the device to select an automatic transfer mode wherein the selected captured data is automatically transferred to the storage media at the separate storage location
1296

FIG. 39

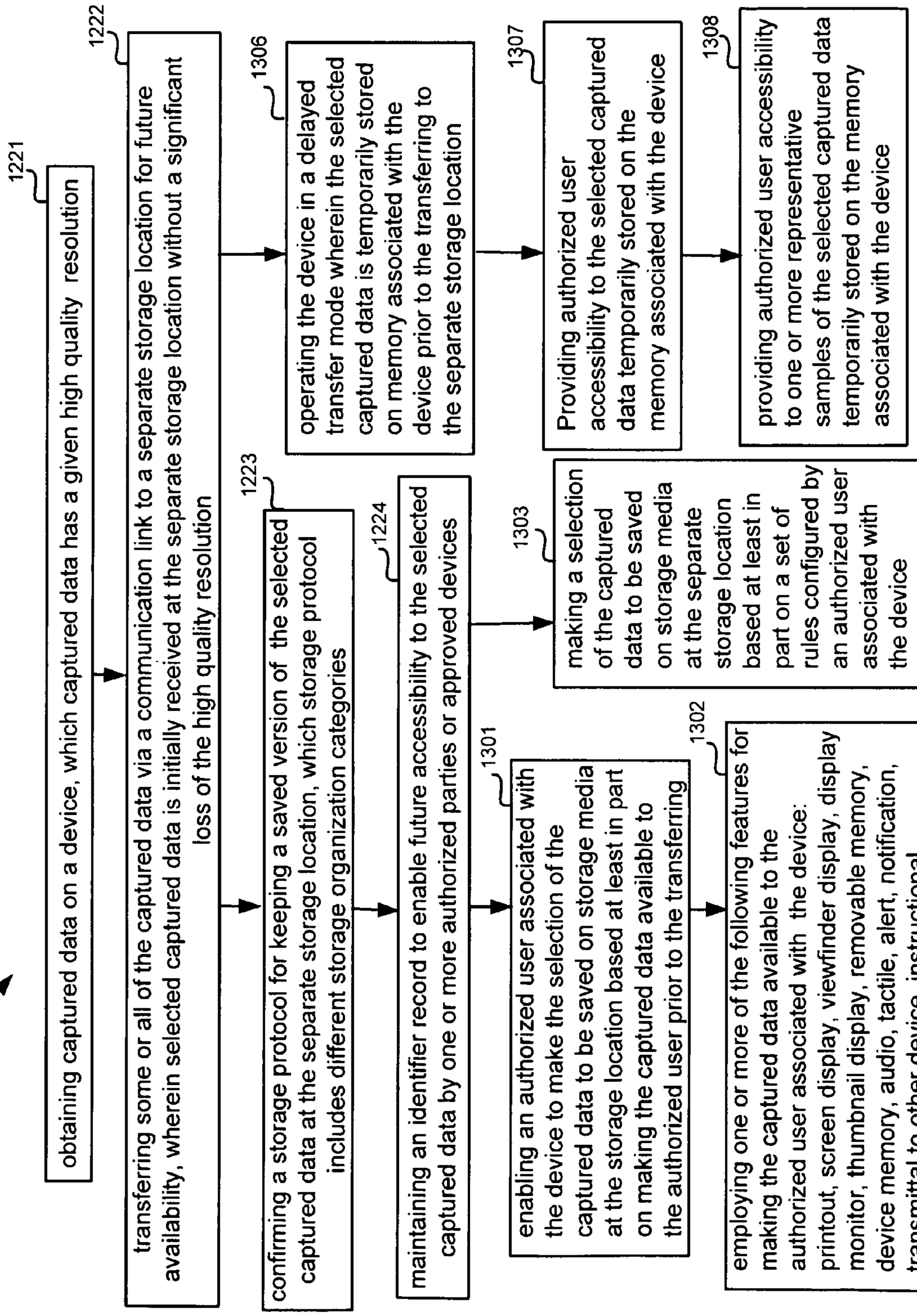

1300
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1221
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1222
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1223
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices
1224
enabling an authorized user associated with the device to make the selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available to the authorized user prior to the transferring
1301
employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to the authorized user associated with the device: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, instructional
1302
making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an authorized user associated with the device
1303
operating the device in a delayed transfer mode wherein the selected captured data is temporarily stored on memory associated with the device prior to the transferring to the separate storage location
1306
Providing authorized user accessibility to the selected captured data temporarily stored on the memory associated with the device
1307
providing authorized user accessibility to one or more representative samples of the selected captured data temporarily stored on the memory associated with the device
1308

FIG. 40

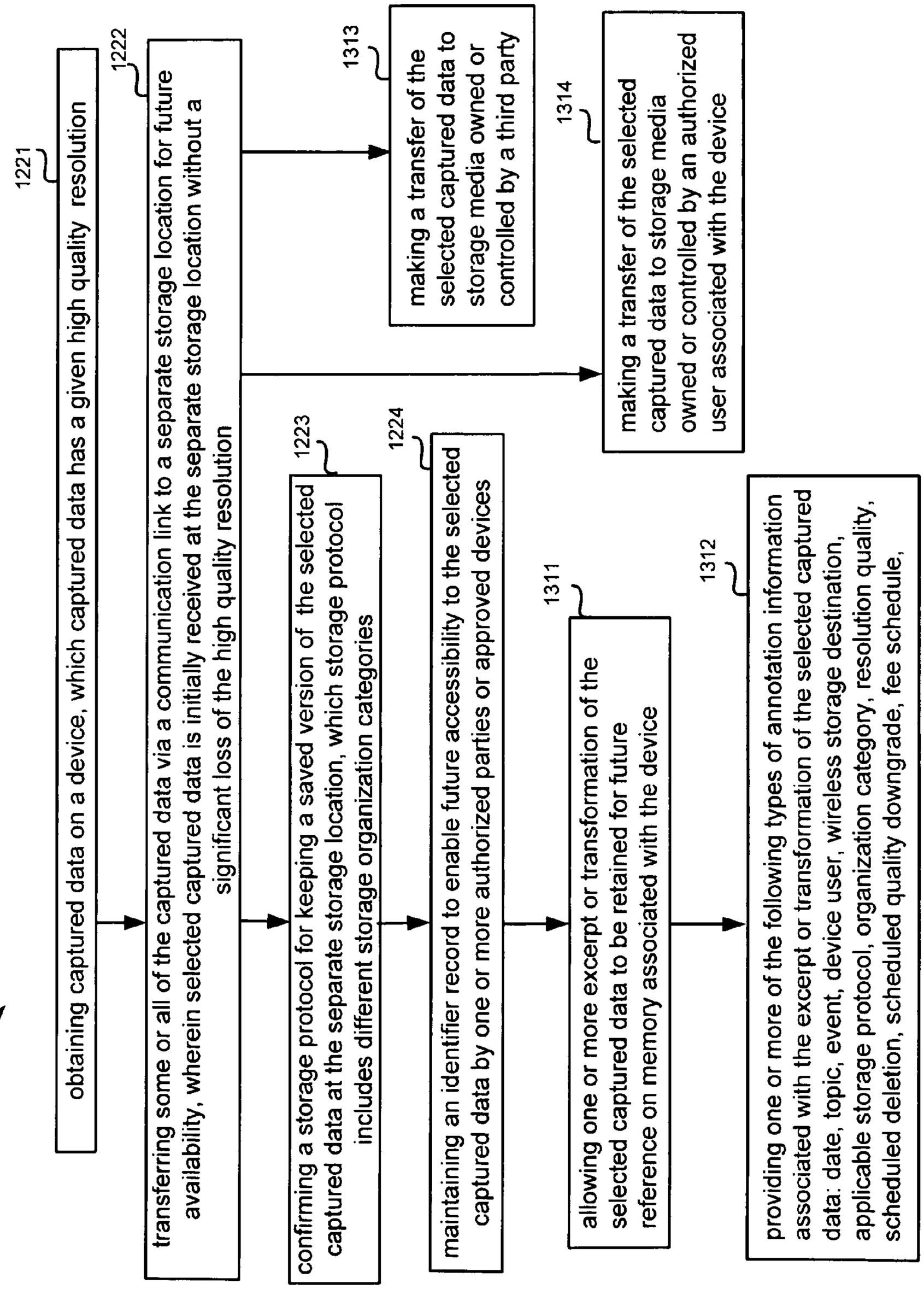

1310
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices
allowing one or more excerpt or transformation of the selected captured data to be retained for future reference on memory associated with the device
providing one or more of the following types of annotation information associated with the excerpt or transformation of the selected captured data: date, topic, event, device user, wireless storage destination, applicable storage protocol, organization category, resolution quality, scheduled deletion, scheduled quality downgrade, fee schedule,
1221
1222
1223
1224
1311
1312
1313
1314
making a transfer of the selected captured data to storage media owned or controlled by a third party
making a transfer of the selected captured data to storage media owned or controlled by an authorized user associated with the device

FIG. 41

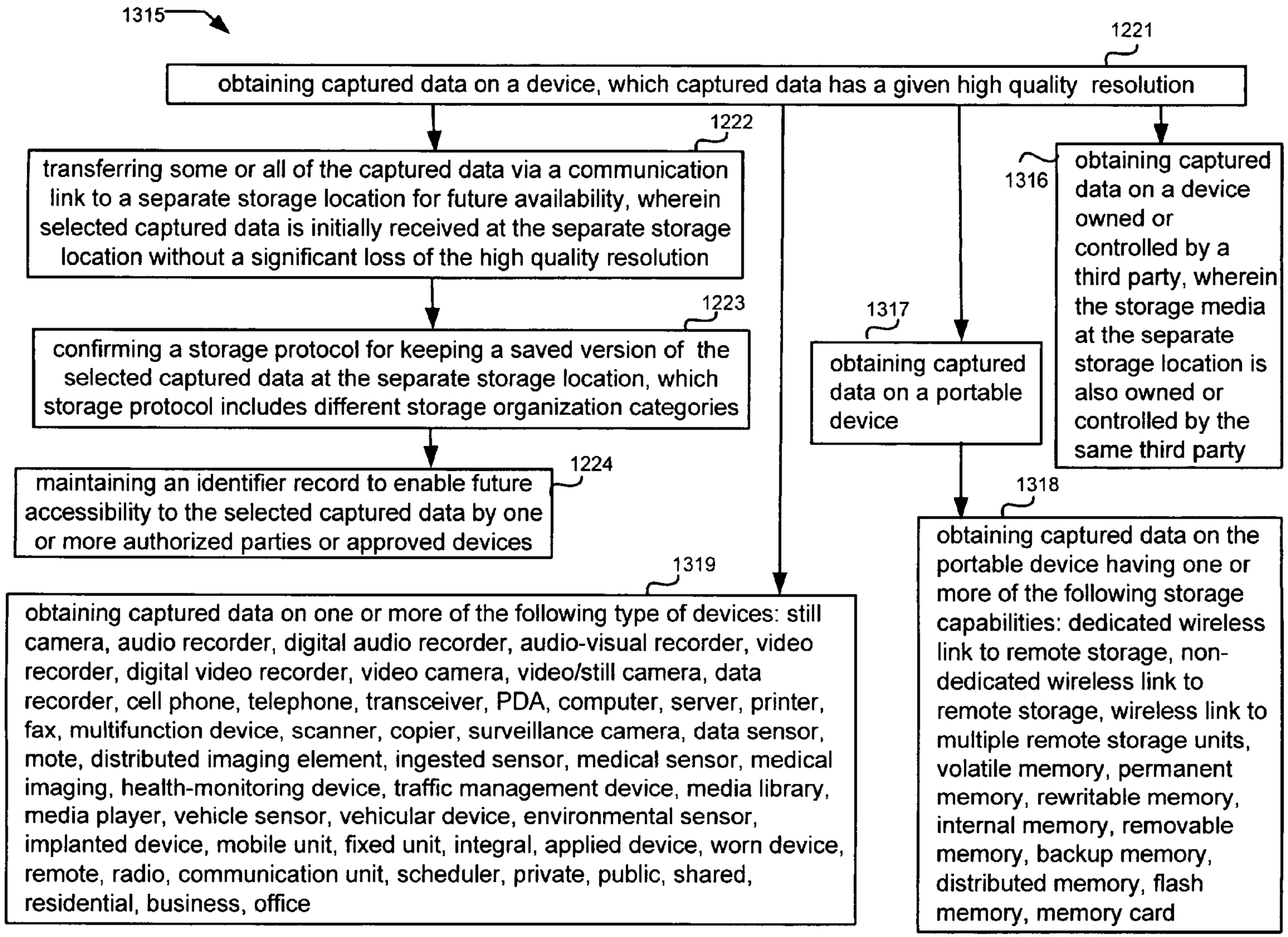
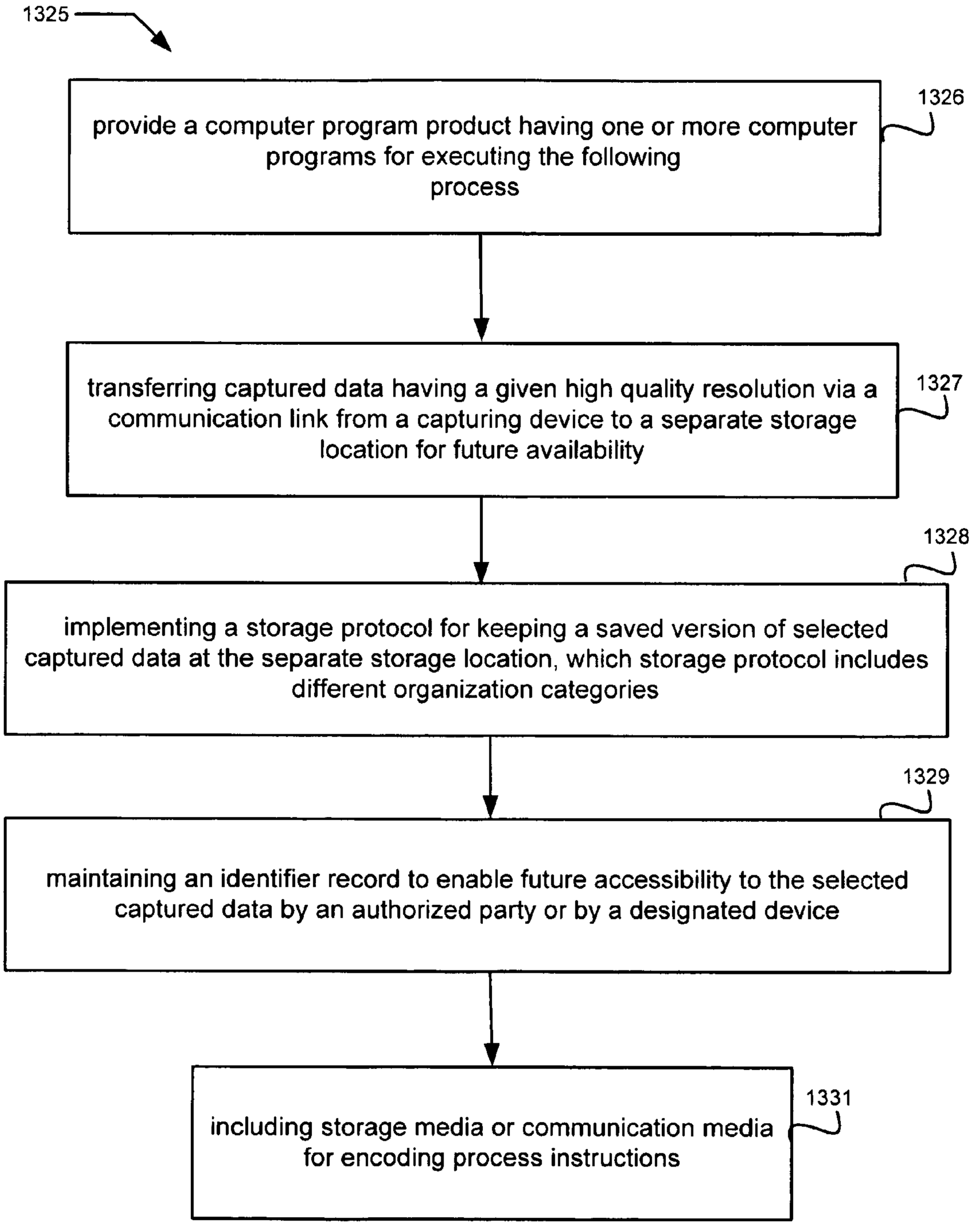

1315
1221
obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution
1222
transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution
1223
confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories
1224
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices
1319
obtaining captured data on one or more of the following type of devices: still camera, audio recorder, digital audio recorder, audio-visual recorder, video recorder, digital video recorder, video camera, video/still camera, data recorder, cell phone, telephone, transceiver, PDA, computer, server, printer, fax, multifunction device, scanner, copier, surveillance camera, data sensor, mote, distributed imaging element, ingested sensor, medical sensor, medical imaging, health-monitoring device, traffic management device, media library, media player, vehicle sensor, vehicular device, environmental sensor, implanted device, mobile unit, fixed unit, integral, applied device, worn device, remote, radio, communication unit, scheduler, private, public, shared, residential, business, office
1316
obtaining captured data on a device owned or controlled by a third party, wherein the storage media at the separate storage location is also owned or controlled by the same third party
1317
obtaining captured data on a portable device
1318
obtaining captured data on the portable device having one or more of the following storage capabilities: dedicated wireless link to remote storage, non-dedicated wireless link to remote storage, wireless link to multiple remote storage units, volatile memory, permanent memory, rewritable memory, internal memory, removable memory, backup memory, distributed memory, flash memory, memory card

FIG. 42


1325
provide a computer program product having one or more computer programs for executing the following process
1326
transferring captured data having a given high quality resolution via a communication link from a capturing device to a separate storage location for future availability
1327
implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different organization categories
1328
maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by an authorized party or by a designated device
1329
including storage media or communication media for encoding process instructions
1331

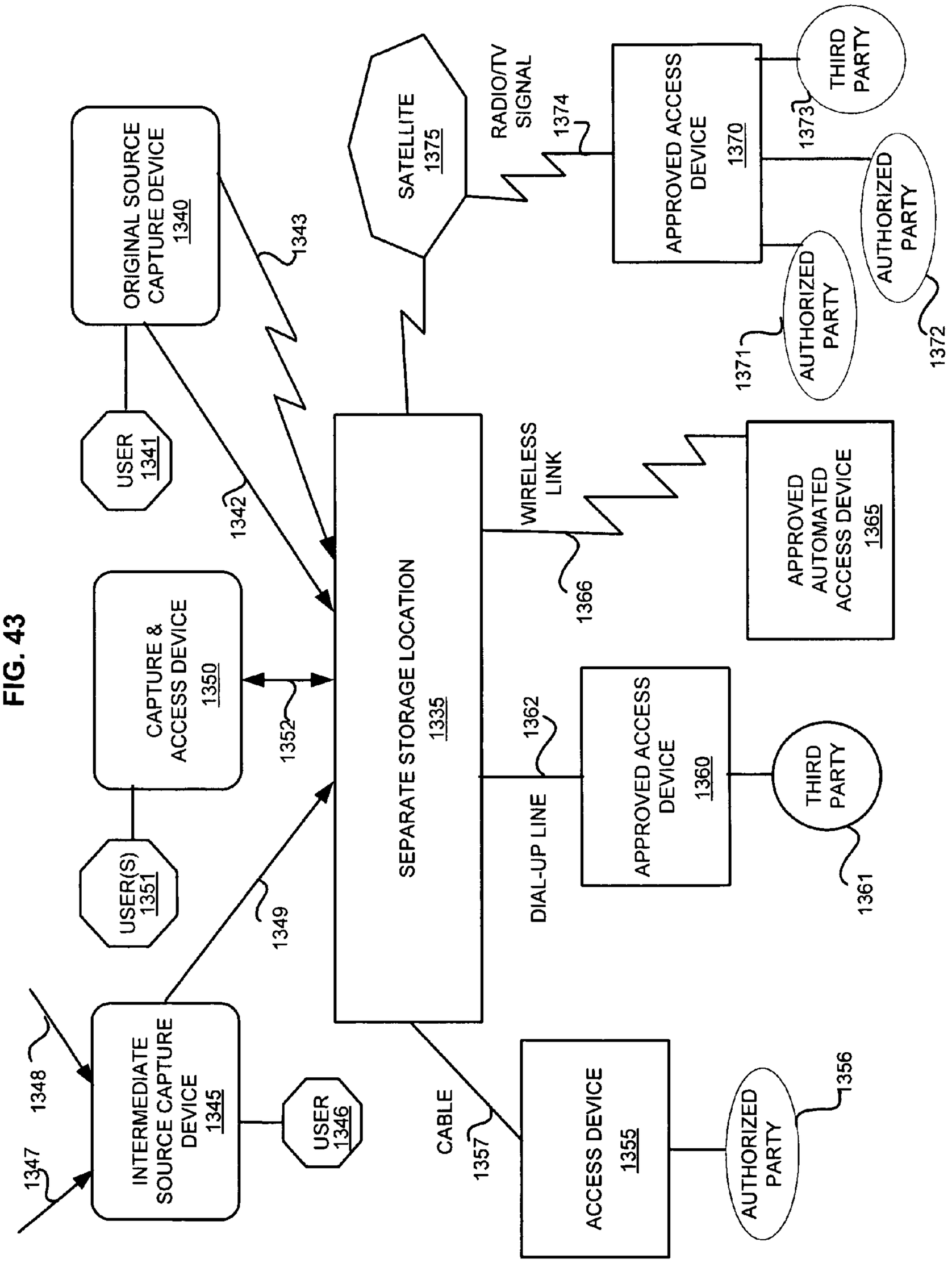

ORIGINAL SOURCE CAPTURE DEVICE 1340
1343
SATELLITE 1375
RADIO/TV SIGNAL 1374
APPROVED ACCESS DEVICE 1370
THIRD PARTY
1373
AUTHORIZED PARTY
1372
1371
USER 1341
1342
CAPTURE & ACCESS DEVICE 1350
1352
SEPARATE STORAGE LOCATION 1335
WIRELESS LINK
1366
APPROVED AUTOMATED ACCESS DEVICE 1365
USER(S) 1351
1349
1362
DIAL-UP LINE
APPROVED ACCESS DEVICE 1360
THIRD PARTY
1361
INTERMEDIATE SOURCE CAPTURE DEVICE 1345
1348
1347
USER 1346
CABLE
1357
ACCESS DEVICE 1355
AUTHORIZED PARTY
1356

FIG. 43

FIG. 44

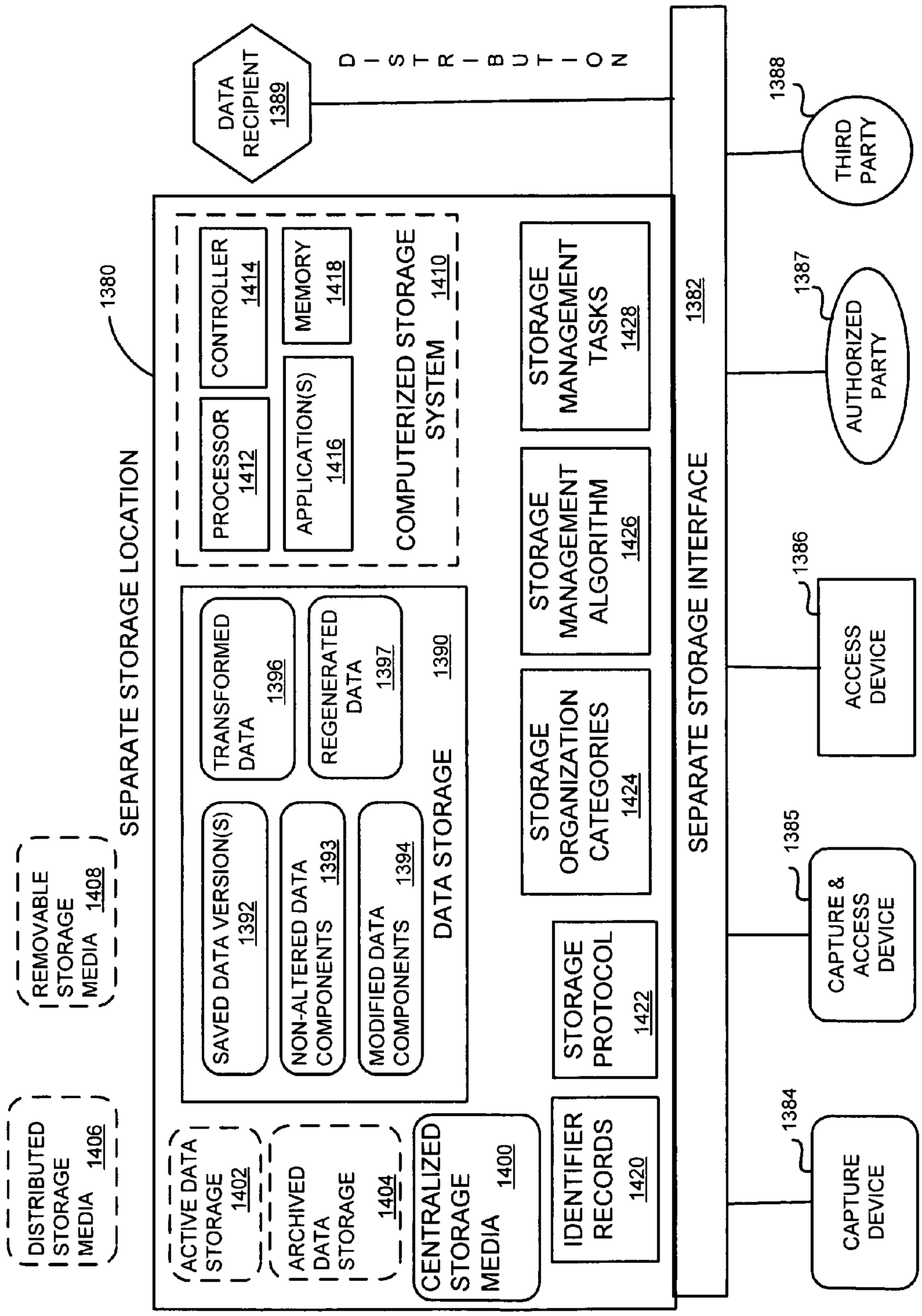

DATA RECIPIENT 1389
D-S-T-R-B-U-T-O-N
1388
THIRD PARTY
1380
SEPARATE STORAGE LOCATION
COMPUTERIZED STORAGE SYSTEM 1410
PROCESSOR 1412
CONTROLLER 1414
APPLICATION(S) 1416
MEMORY 1418
DATA STORAGE 1390
TRANSFORMED DATA 1396
REGENERATED DATA 1397
SAVED DATA VERSION(S) 1392
NON-ALTERED DATA COMPONENTS 1393
MODIFIED DATA COMPONENTS 1394
STORAGE ORGANIZATION CATEGORIES 1424
STORAGE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM 1426
STORAGE MANAGEMENT TASKS 1428
SEPARATE STORAGE INTERFACE 1382
1387
AUTHORIZED PARTY
1386
ACCESS DEVICE
1385
CAPTURE & ACCESS DEVICE
1384
CAPTURE DEVICE
STORAGE PROTOCOL 1422
IDENTIFIER RECORDS 1420
CENTRALIZED STORAGE MEDIA 1400
ACTIVE DATA STORAGE 1402
ARCHIVED DATA STORAGE 1404
DISTRIBUTED STORAGE MEDIA 1406
REMOVABLE STORAGE MEDIA 1408

FIG. 45

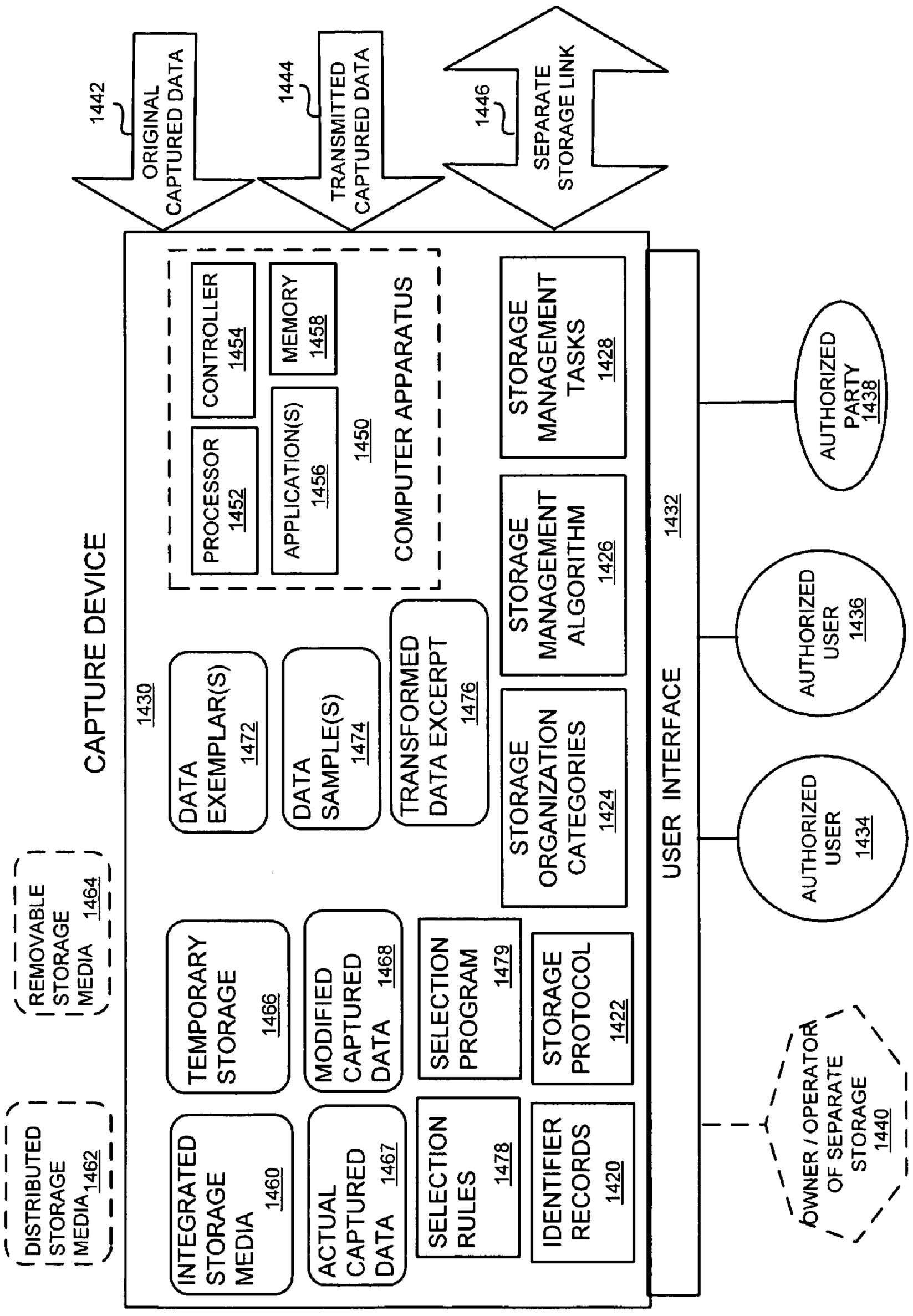

1442
ORIGINAL CAPTURED DATA
1444
TRANSMITTED CAPTURED DATA
1446
SEPARATE STORAGE LINK
CAPTURE DEVICE
1430
DATA EXEMPLAR(S) 1472
DATA SAMPLE(S) 1474
TRANSFORMED DATA EXCERPT 1476
STORAGE ORGANIZATION CATEGORIES 1424
STORAGE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM 1426
STORAGE MANAGEMENT TASKS 1428
PROCESSOR 1452
CONTROLLER 1454
APPLICATION(S) 1456
MEMORY 1458
1450
COMPUTER APPARATUS
USER INTERFACE 1432
AUTHORIZED PARTY 1438
AUTHORIZED USER 1436
AUTHORIZED USER 1434
OWNER / OPERATOR OF SEPARATE STORAGE 1440
DISTRIBUTED STORAGE MEDIA 1462
REMOVABLE STORAGE MEDIA 1464
INTEGRATED STORAGE MEDIA 1460
TEMPORARY STORAGE 1466
ACTUAL CAPTURED DATA 1467
MODIFIED CAPTURED DATA 1468
SELECTION RULES 1478
SELECTION PROGRAM 1479
IDENTIFIER RECORDS 1420
STORAGE PROTOCOL 1422

FIG. 46

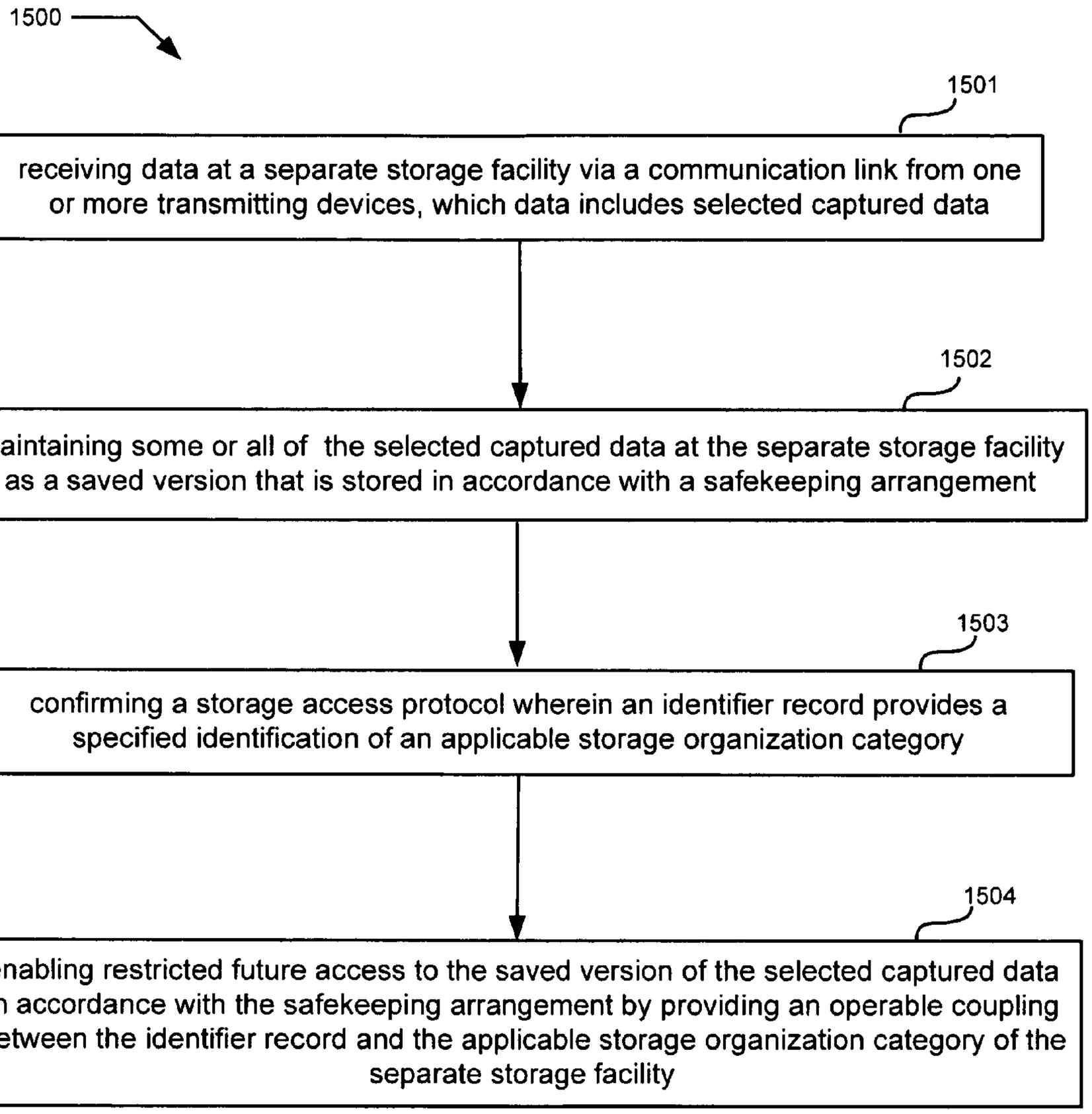

1500
1501
receiving data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from one or more transmitting devices, which data includes selected captured data
1502
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a saved version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1503
confirming a storage access protocol wherein an identifier record provides a specified identification of an applicable storage organization category
1504
enabling restricted future access to the saved version of the selected captured data in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement by providing an operable coupling between the identifier record and the applicable storage organization category of the separate storage facility

FIG. 47

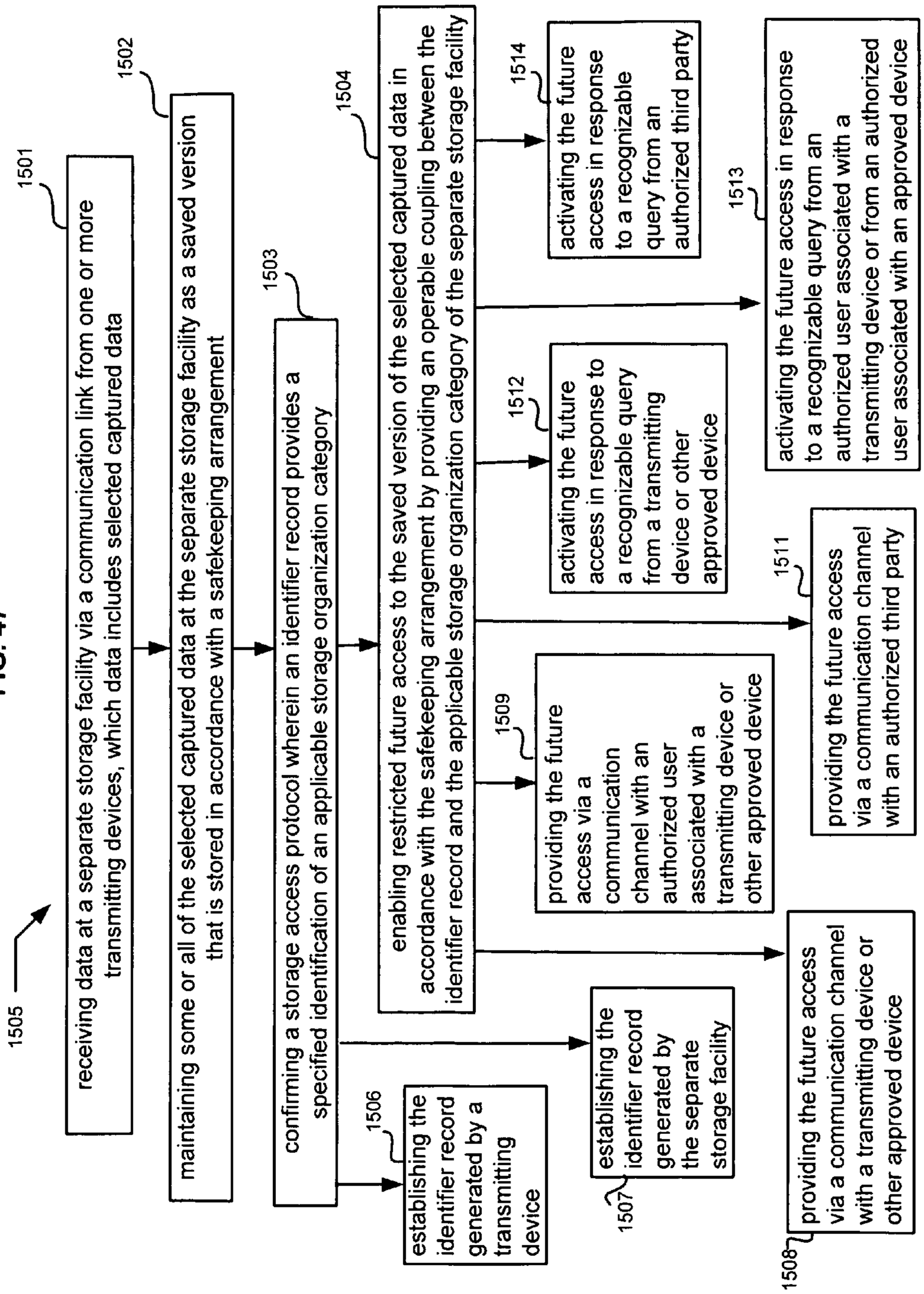

1505
receiving data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from one or more transmitting devices, which data includes selected captured data
1501
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a saved version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1502
confirming a storage access protocol wherein an identifier record provides a specified identification of an applicable storage organization category
1503
establishing the identifier record generated by a transmitting device
1506
enabling restricted future access to the saved version of the selected captured data in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement by providing an operable coupling between the identifier record and the applicable storage organization category of the separate storage facility
1504
establishing the identifier record generated by the separate storage facility
1507
providing the future access via a communication channel with an authorized user associated with a transmitting device or other approved device
1509
providing the future access via a communication channel with an authorized third party
1511
activating the future access in response to a recognizable query from a transmitting device or other approved device
1512
activating the future access in response to a recognizable query from an authorized third party
1514
providing the future access via a communication channel with a transmitting device or other approved device
1508
activating the future access in response to a recognizable query from an authorized user associated with a transmitting device or from an authorized user associated with an approved device
1513

FIG. 48

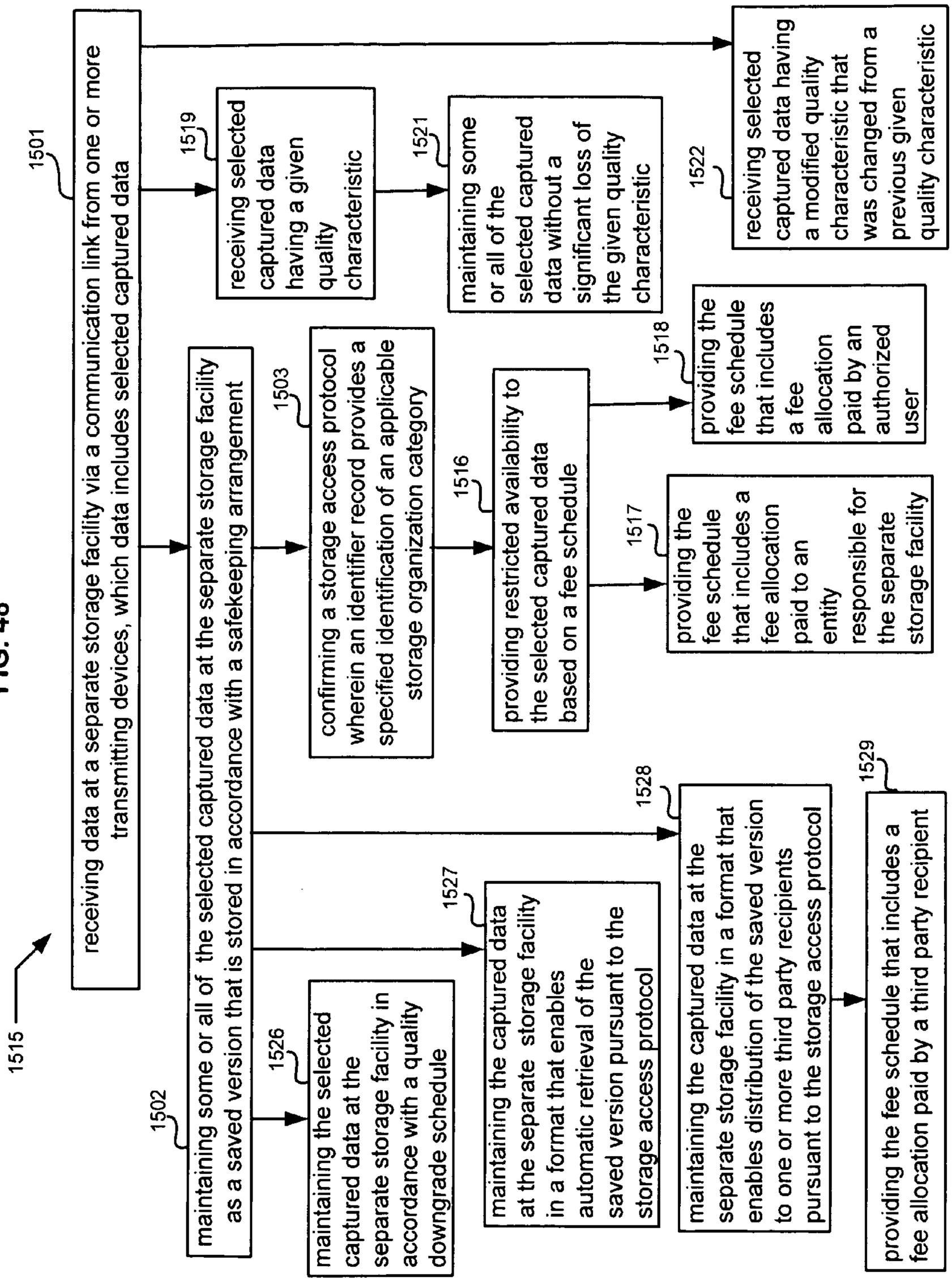

1515
receiving data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from one or more transmitting devices, which data includes selected captured data
1501
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a saved version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1502
receiving selected captured data having a given quality characteristic
1519
receiving selected captured data having a modified quality characteristic that was changed from a previous given quality characteristic
1522
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data without a significant loss of the given quality characteristic
1521
confirming a storage access protocol wherein an identifier record provides a specified identification of an applicable storage organization category
1503
maintaining the selected captured data at the separate storage facility in accordance with a quality downgrade schedule
1526
providing restricted availability to the selected captured data based on a fee schedule
1516
providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage facility
1517
providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid by an authorized user
1518
maintaining the captured data at the separate storage facility in a format that enables automatic retrieval of the saved version pursuant to the storage access protocol
1527
maintaining the captured data at the separate storage facility in a format that enables distribution of the saved version to one or more third party recipients pursuant to the storage access protocol
1528
providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid by a third party recipient
1529

FIG. 49

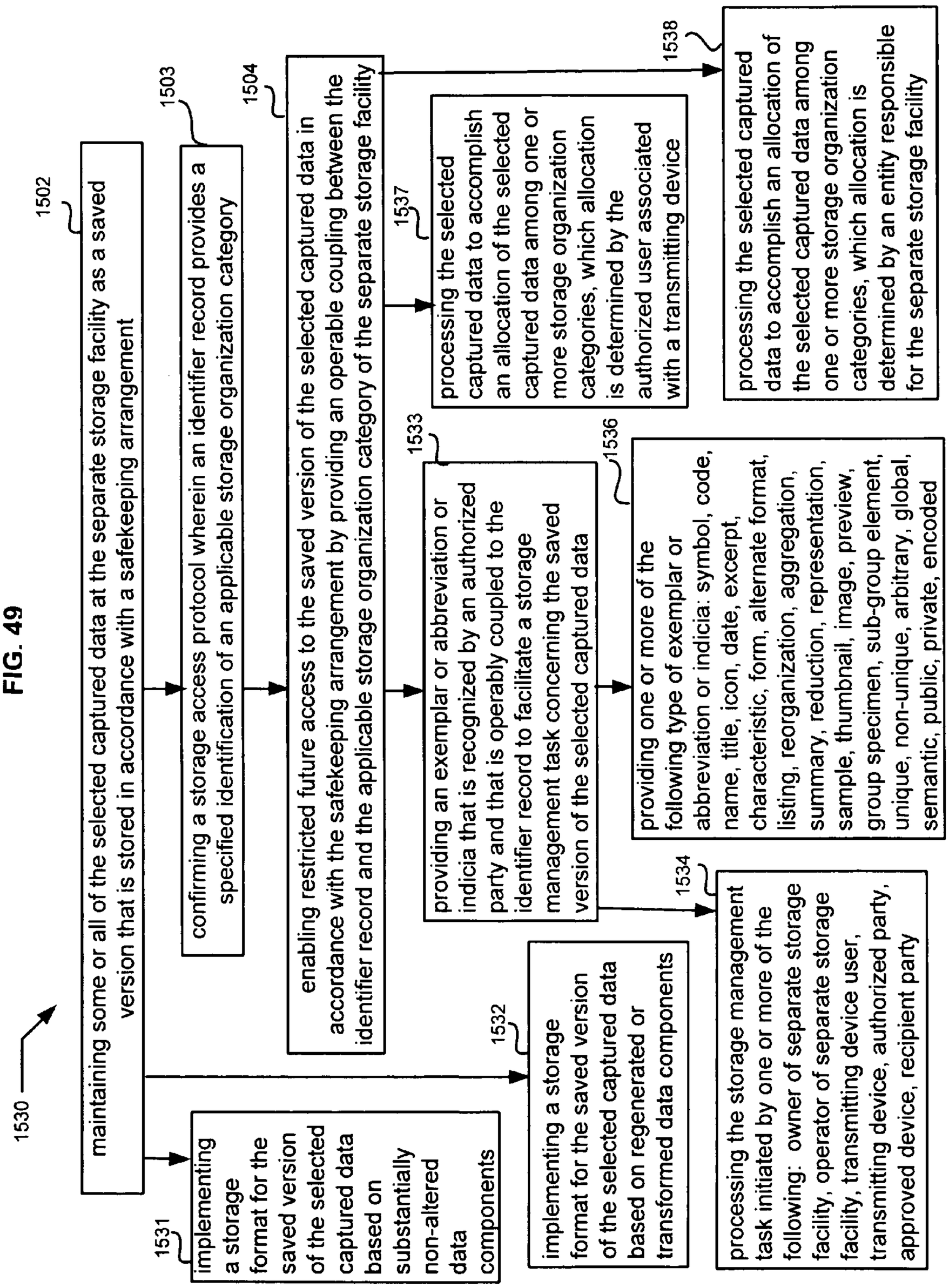

1530
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1531
implementing a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on substantially non-altered data components
1532
implementing a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on regenerated or transformed data components
1533
providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that is recognized by an authorized party and that is operably coupled to the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data
1534
1536
providing one or more of the following type of exemplar or abbreviation or indicia: symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, encoded
1537
processing the storage management task initiated by one or more of the following: owner of separate storage facility, operator of separate storage facility, transmitting device user, transmitting device, authorized party, approved device, recipient party
1538
processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among one or more storage organization categories, which allocation is determined by an entity responsible for the separate storage facility
1502
1503
1504

FIG. 50

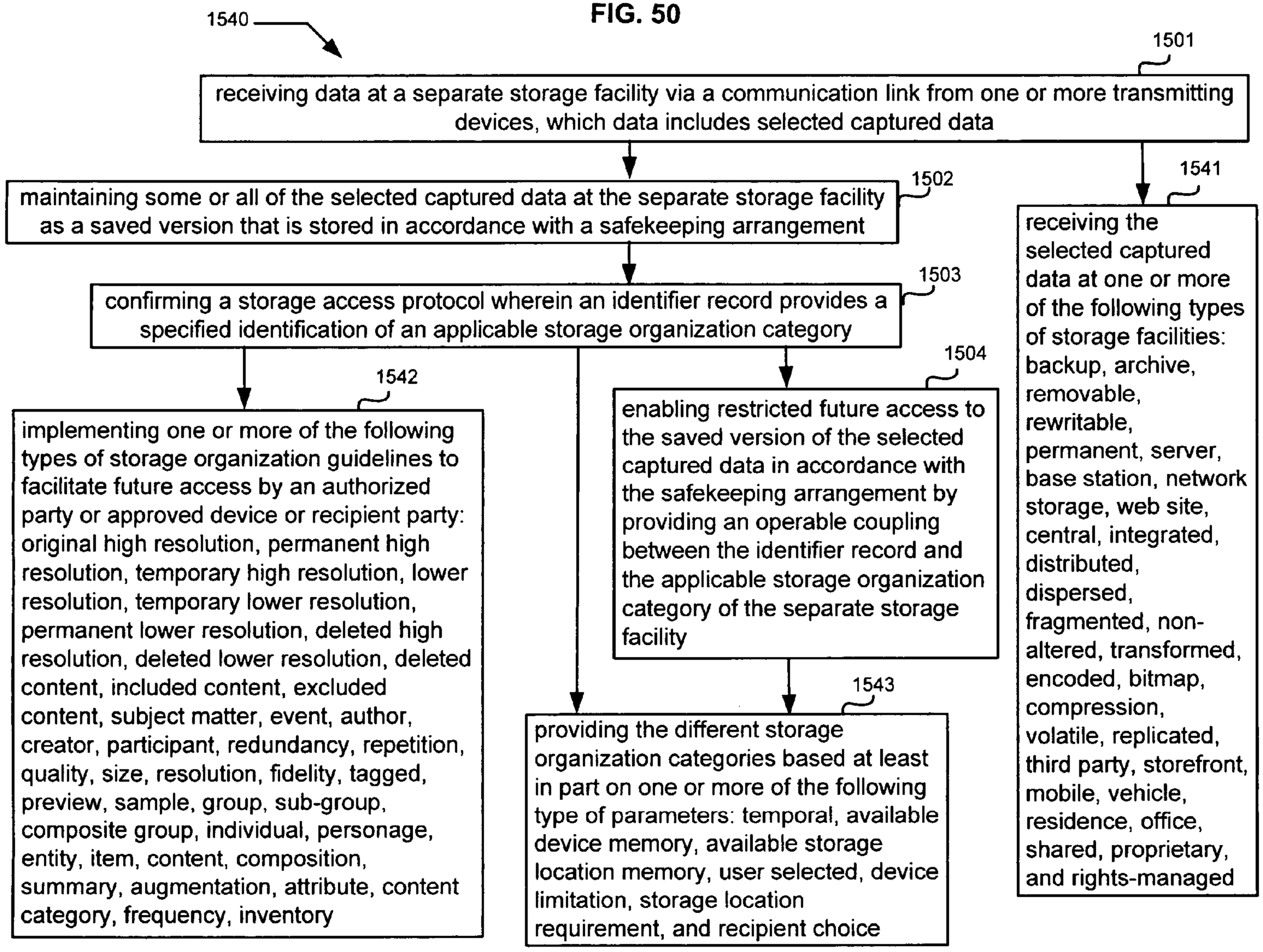

1540
1501
receiving data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from one or more transmitting devices, which data includes selected captured data
1502
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a saved version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1503
confirming a storage access protocol wherein an identifier record provides a specified identification of an applicable storage organization category
1541
receiving the selected captured data at one or more of the following types of storage facilities: backup, archive, removable, rewritable, permanent, server, base station, network storage, web site, central, integrated, distributed, dispersed, fragmented, non-altered, transformed, encoded, bitmap, compression, volatile, replicated, third party, storefront, mobile, vehicle, residence, office, shared, proprietary, and rights-managed
1542
implementing one or more of the following types of storage organization guidelines to facilitate future access by an authorized party or approved device or recipient party: original high resolution, permanent high resolution, temporary high resolution, lower resolution, temporary lower resolution, permanent lower resolution, deleted high resolution, deleted lower resolution, deleted content, included content, excluded content, subject matter, event, author, creator, participant, redundancy, repetition, quality, size, resolution, fidelity, tagged, preview, sample, group, sub-group, composite group, individual, personage, entity, item, content, composition, summary, augmentation, attribute, content category, frequency, inventory
1504
enabling restricted future access to the saved version of the selected captured data in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement by providing an operable coupling between the identifier record and the applicable storage organization category of the separate storage facility
1543
providing the different storage organization categories based at least in part on one or more of the following type of parameters: temporal, available device memory, available storage location memory, user selected, device limitation, storage location requirement, and recipient choice

FIG. 51

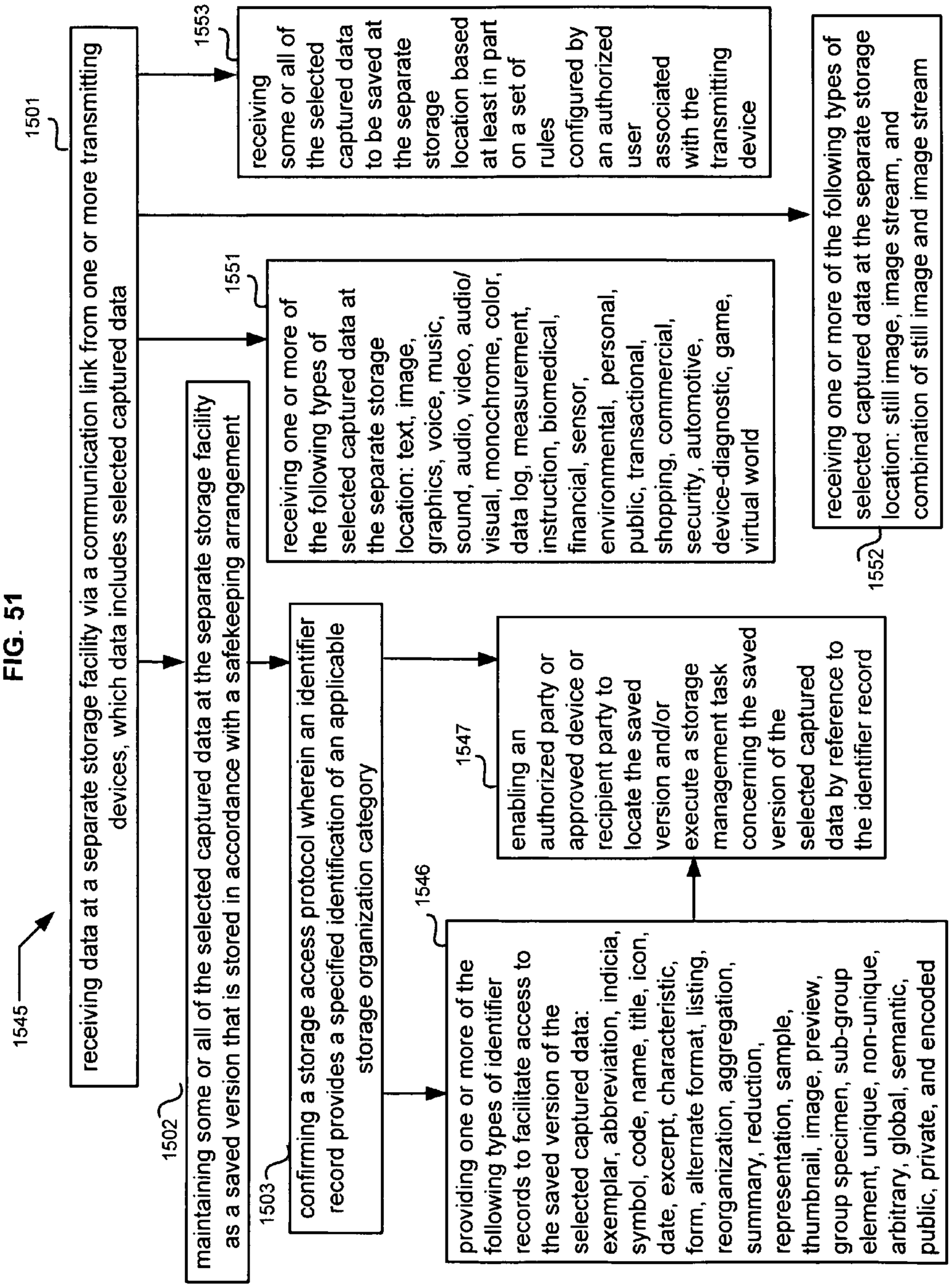

1545
receiving data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from one or more transmitting devices, which data includes selected captured data
1501
1502
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a saved version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1503
confirming a storage access protocol wherein an identifier record provides a specified identification of an applicable storage organization category
1546
1547
enabling an authorized party or approved device or recipient party to locate the saved version and/or execute a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data by reference to the identifier record
1548
providing one or more of the following types of identifier records to facilitate access to the saved version of the selected captured data: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, and encoded
1551
receiving one or more of the following types of selected captured data at the separate storage location: text, image, graphics, voice, music, sound, audio, video, audio/visual, monochrome, color, data log, measurement, instruction, biomedical, financial, sensor, environmental, personal, public, transactional, shopping, commercial, security, automotive, device-diagnostic, game, virtual world
1552
receiving one or more of the following types of selected captured data at the separate storage location: still image, image stream, and combination of still image and image stream
1553
receiving some or all of the selected captured data to be saved at the separate storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an authorized user associated with the transmitting device

FIG. 52

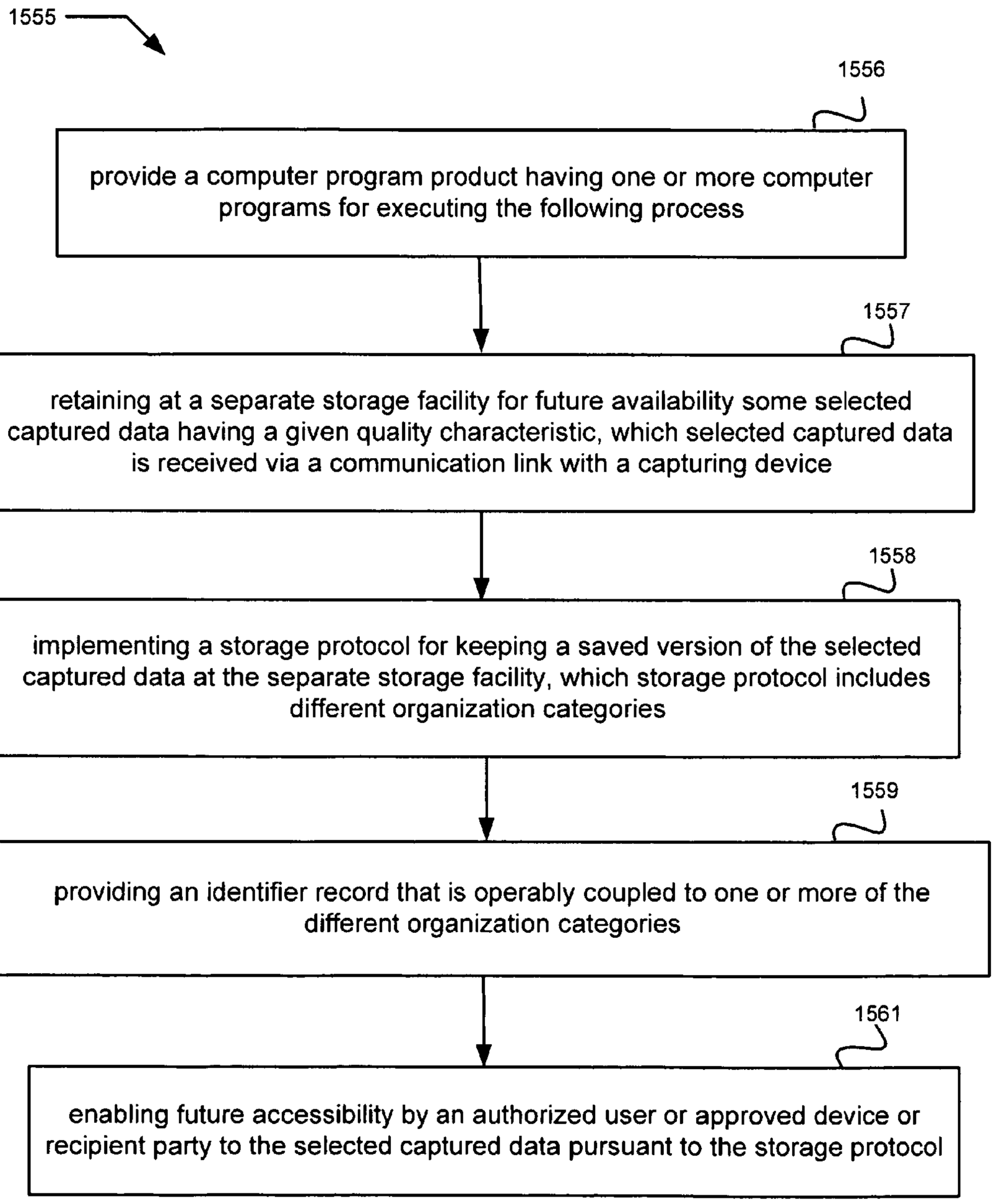

1555
1556
provide a computer program product having one or more computer programs for executing the following process
1557
retaining at a separate storage facility for future availability some selected captured data having a given quality characteristic, which selected captured data is received via a communication link with a capturing device
1558
implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility, which storage protocol includes different organization categories
1559
providing an identifier record that is operably coupled to one or more of the different organization categories
1561
enabling future accessibility by an authorized user or approved device or recipient party to the selected captured data pursuant to the storage protocol

FIG. 53

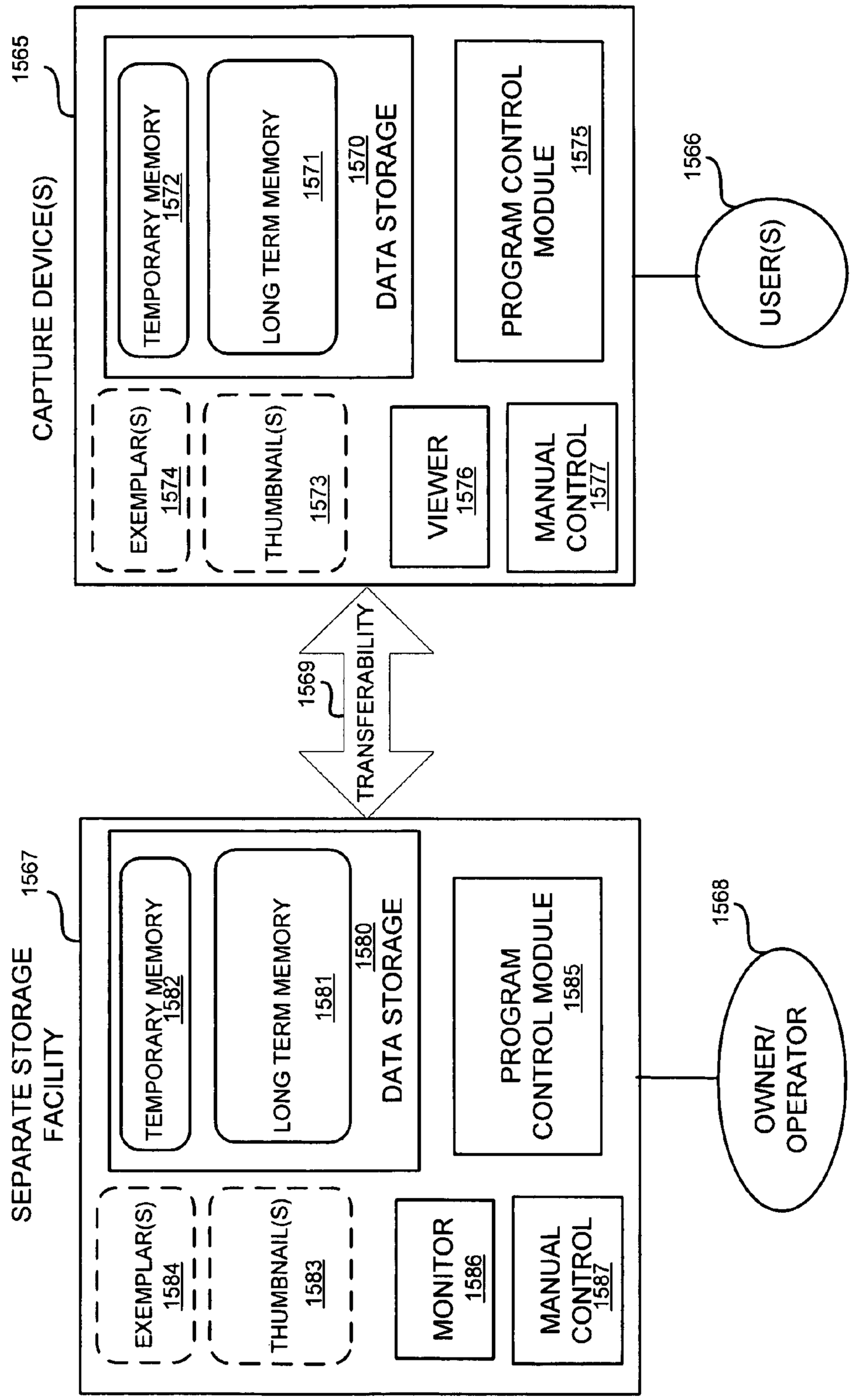

1565
CAPTURE DEVICE(S)
TEMPORARY MEMORY 1572
LONG TERM MEMORY 1571
1570 DATA STORAGE
PROGRAM CONTROL MODULE 1575
EXEMPLAR(S) 1574
THUMBNAIL(S) 1573
VIEWER 1576
MANUAL CONTROL 1577
1566
USER(S)
1569
TRANSFERABILITY
1567
SEPARATE STORAGE FACILITY
TEMPORARY MEMORY 1582
LONG TERM MEMORY 1581
1580 DATA STORAGE
PROGRAM CONTROL MODULE 1585
EXEMPLAR(S) 1584
THUMBNAIL(S) 1583
MONITOR 1586
MANUAL CONTROL 1587
1568
OWNER/ OPERATOR

FIG. 54

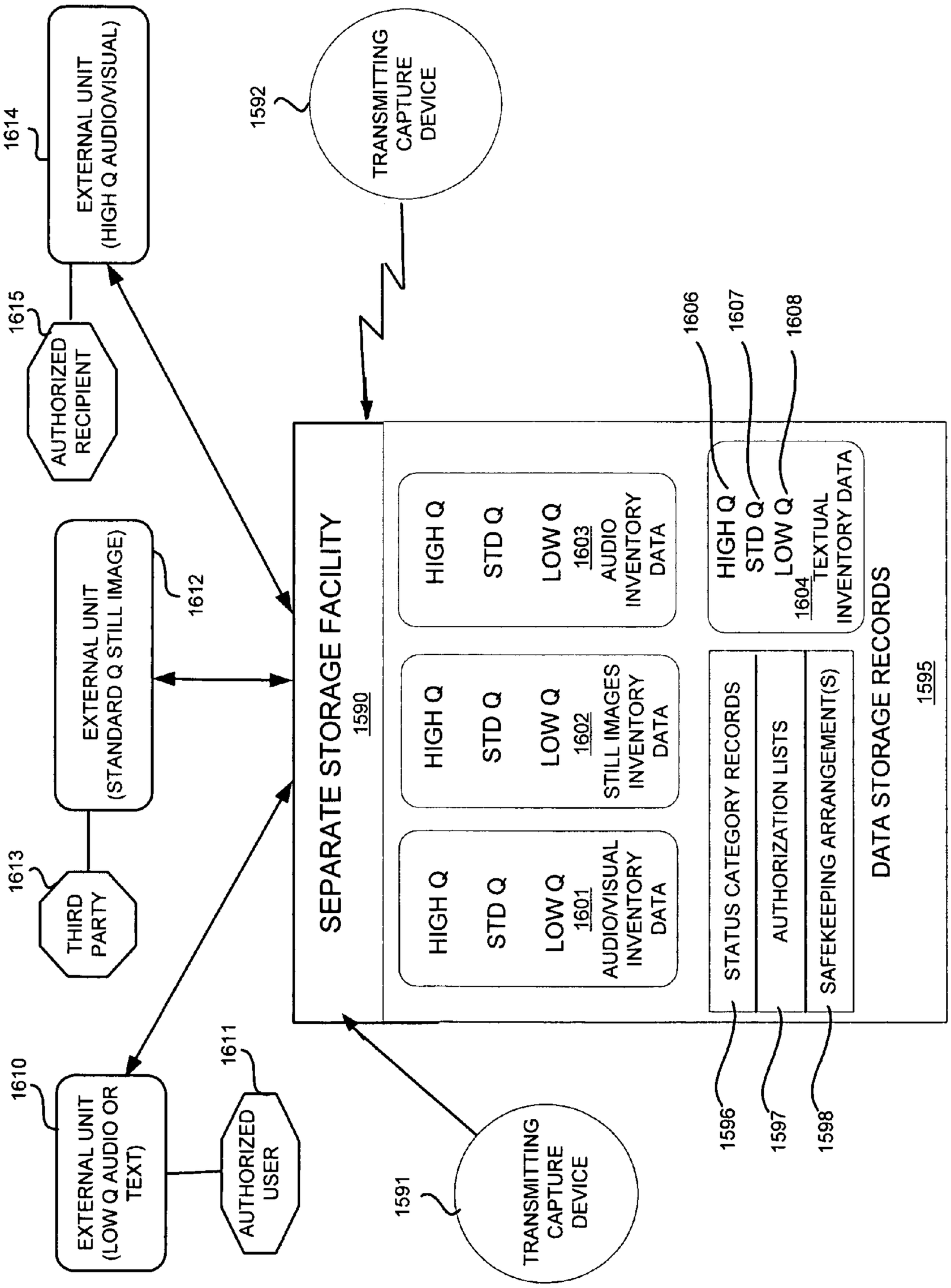

1614
EXTERNAL UNIT (HIGH Q AUDIO/VISUAL)
1592
TRANSMITTING CAPTURE DEVICE
1615
AUTHORIZED RECIPIENT
1613
THIRD PARTY
EXTERNAL UNIT (STANDARD Q STILL IMAGE)
1612
SEPARATE STORAGE FACILITY
1590
HIGH Q
STD Q
LOW Q
1601
AUDIO/VISUAL INVENTORY DATA
HIGH Q
STD Q
LOW Q
1602
STILL IMAGES INVENTORY DATA
HIGH Q
STD Q
LOW Q
1603
AUDIO INVENTORY DATA
1606
1607
1608
HIGH Q
STD Q
LOW Q
1604
TEXTUAL INVENTORY DATA
STATUS CATEGORY RECORDS
AUTHORIZATION LISTS
SAFEKEEPING ARRANGEMENT(S)
DATA STORAGE RECORDS
1595
1596
1597
1598
1610
EXTERNAL UNIT (LOW Q AUDIO OR TEXT)
1611
AUTHORIZED USER
1591
TRANSMITTING CAPTURE DEVICE

FIG. 55

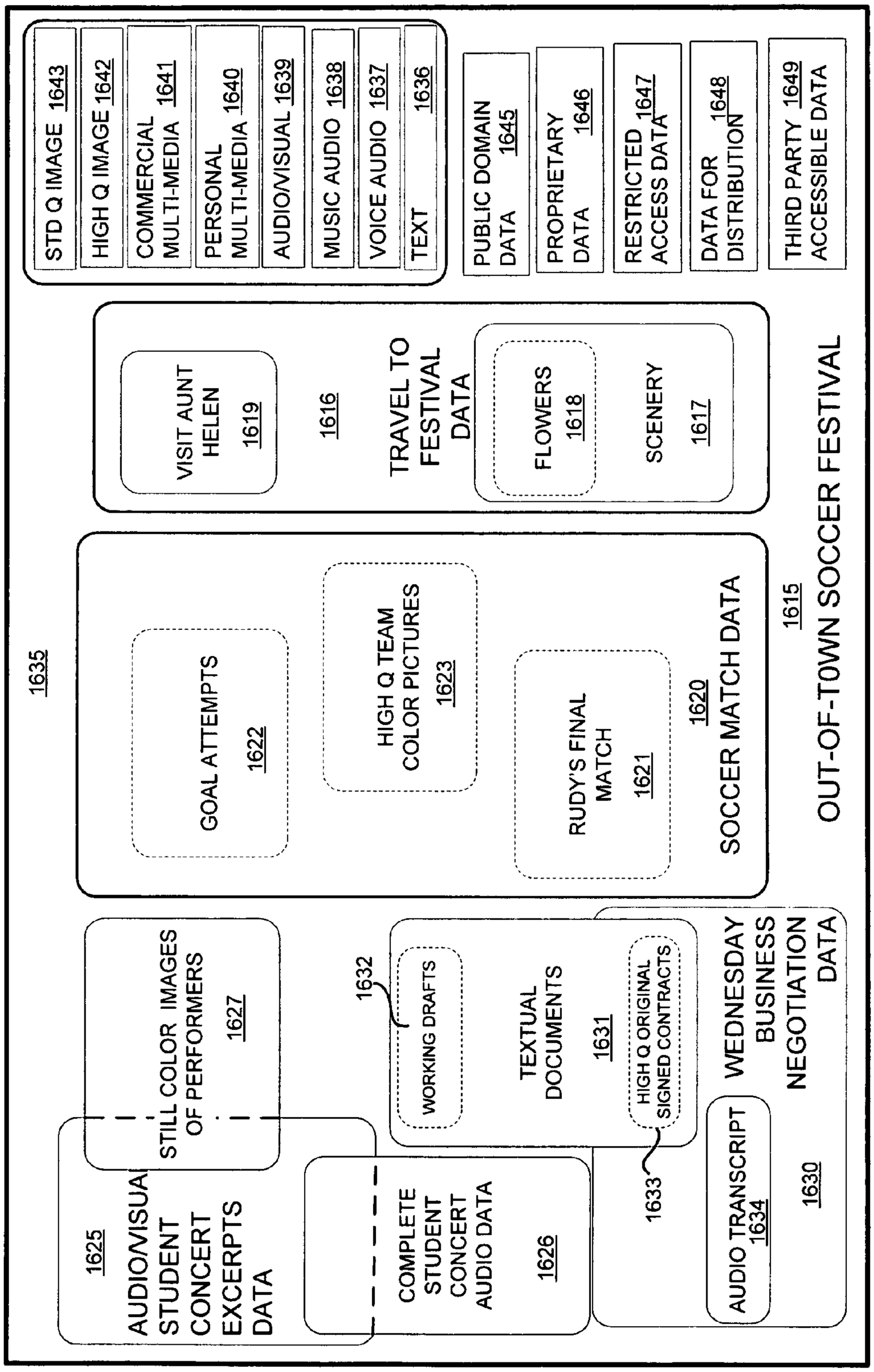

STORAGE CATEGORIES FOR CAPTURED DATA
1635
STD Q IMAGE 1643
HIGH Q IMAGE 1642
COMMERCIAL MULTI-MEDIA 1641
PERSONAL MULTI-MEDIA 1640
AUDIO/VISUAL 1639
MUSIC AUDIO 1638
VOICE AUDIO 1637
TEXT 1636
PUBLIC DOMAIN DATA 1645
PROPRIETARY DATA 1646
RESTRICTED ACCESS DATA 1647
DATA FOR DISTRIBUTION 1648
THIRD PARTY ACCESSIBLE DATA 1649
OUT-OF-TOWN SOCCER FESTIVAL
1615
SOCCER MATCH DATA
1620
GOAL ATTEMPTS 1622
HIGH Q TEAM COLOR PICTURES 1623
RUDY'S FINAL MATCH 1621
TRAVEL TO FESTIVAL DATA
1616
VISIT AUNT HELEN 1619
FLOWERS 1618
SCENERY 1617
AUDIO/VISUAL STUDENT CONCERT EXCERPTS DATA
1625
STILL COLOR IMAGES OF PERFORMERS 1627
COMPLETE STUDENT CONCERT AUDIO DATA
1626
1632
TEXTUAL DOCUMENTS
1631
WORKING DRAFTS
HIGH Q ORIGINAL SIGNED CONTRACTS
1633
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS NEGOTIATION DATA
1630
AUDIO TRANSCRIPT 1634

FIG. 56

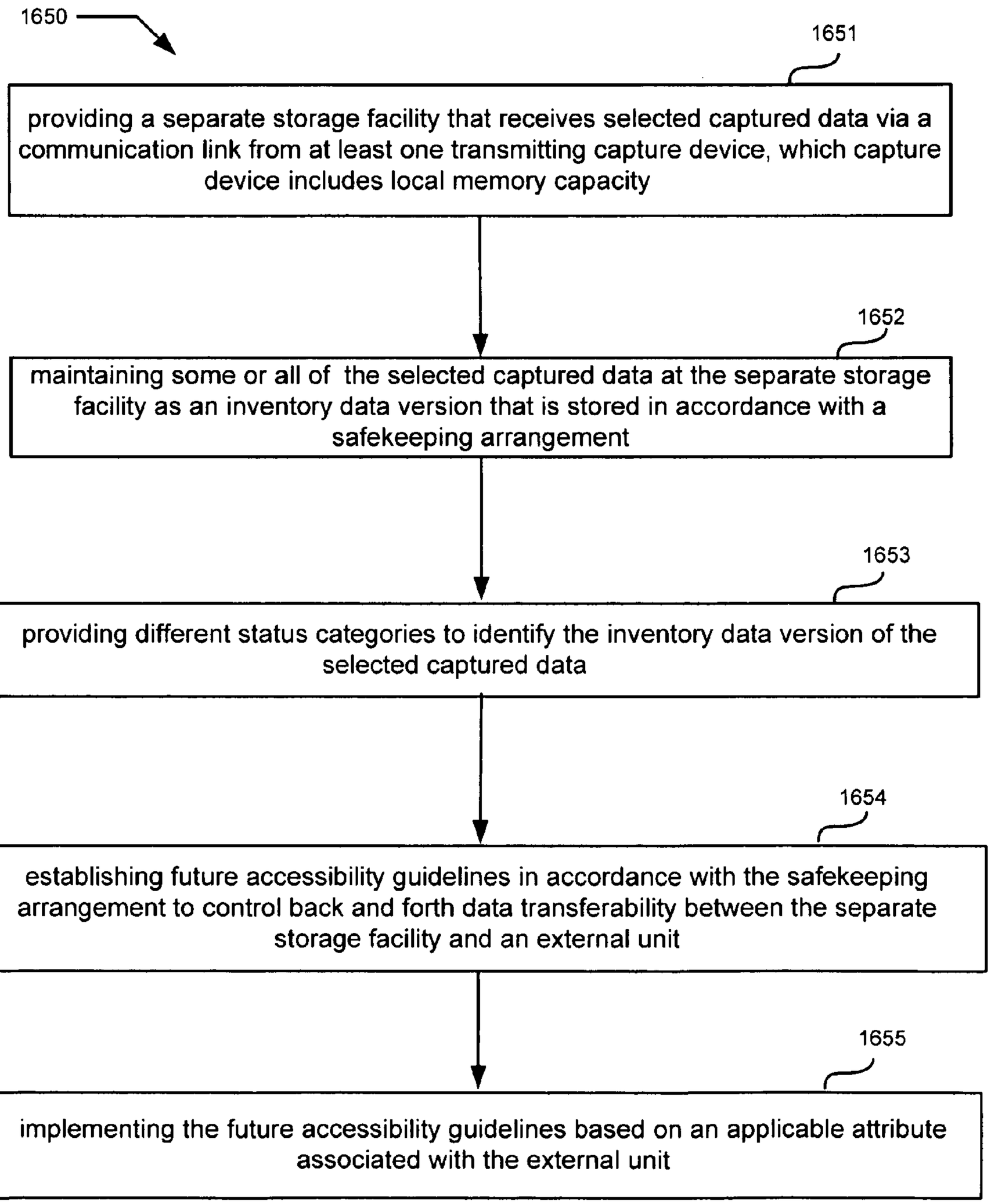

1650
1651
providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes local memory capacity
1652
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1653
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
1654
establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
1655
implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit

FIG. 57

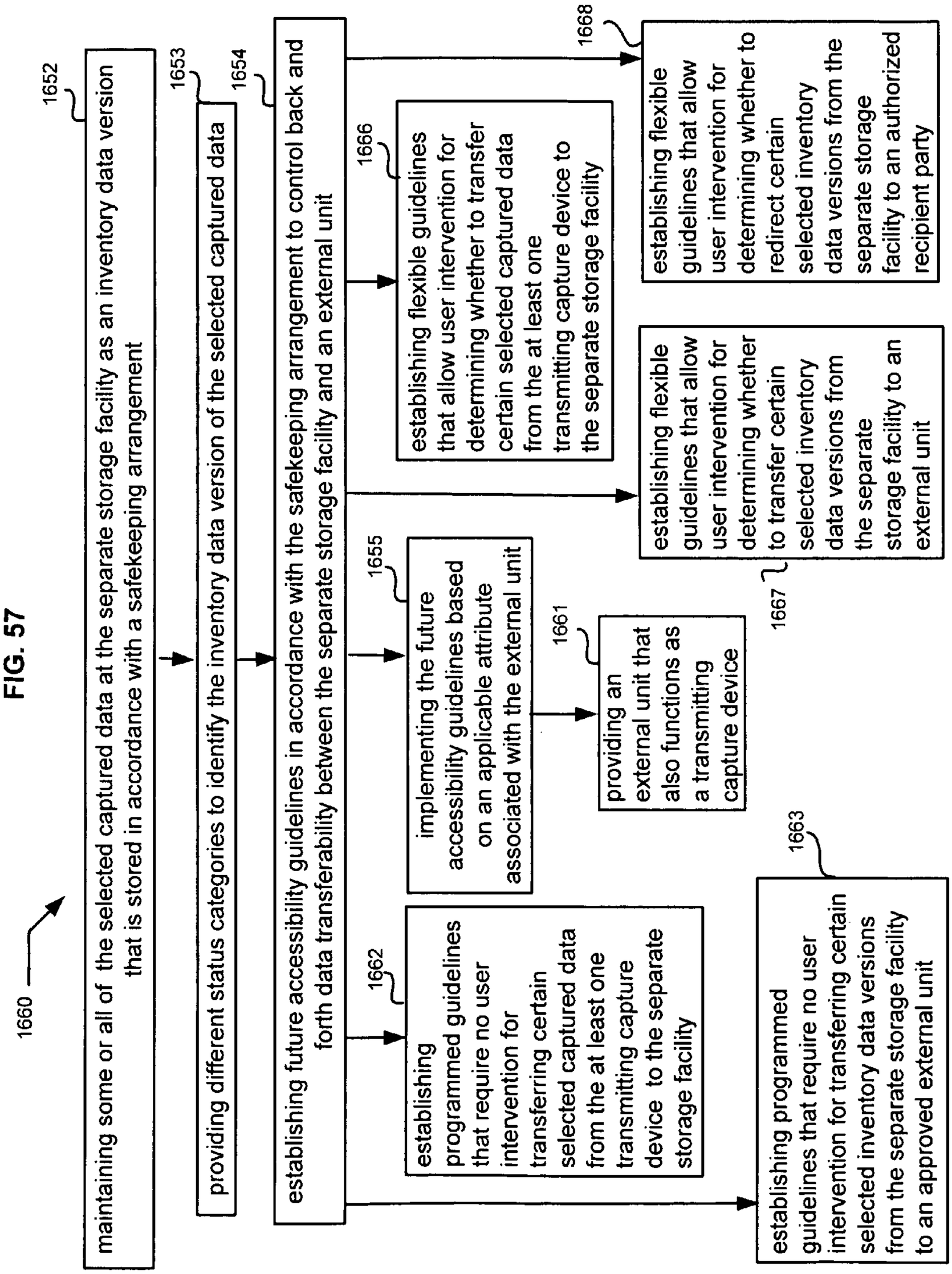

1660
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1652
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
1653
establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
1654
1655
implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit
1661
providing an external unit that also functions as a transmitting capture device
1662
establishing programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected captured data from the at least one transmitting capture device to the separate storage facility
1663
establishing programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an approved external unit
1666
establishing flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to transfer certain selected captured data from the at least one transmitting capture device to the separate storage facility
1667
establishing flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to transfer certain selected inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an external unit
1668
establishing flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to redirect certain selected inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an authorized recipient party

FIG. 58

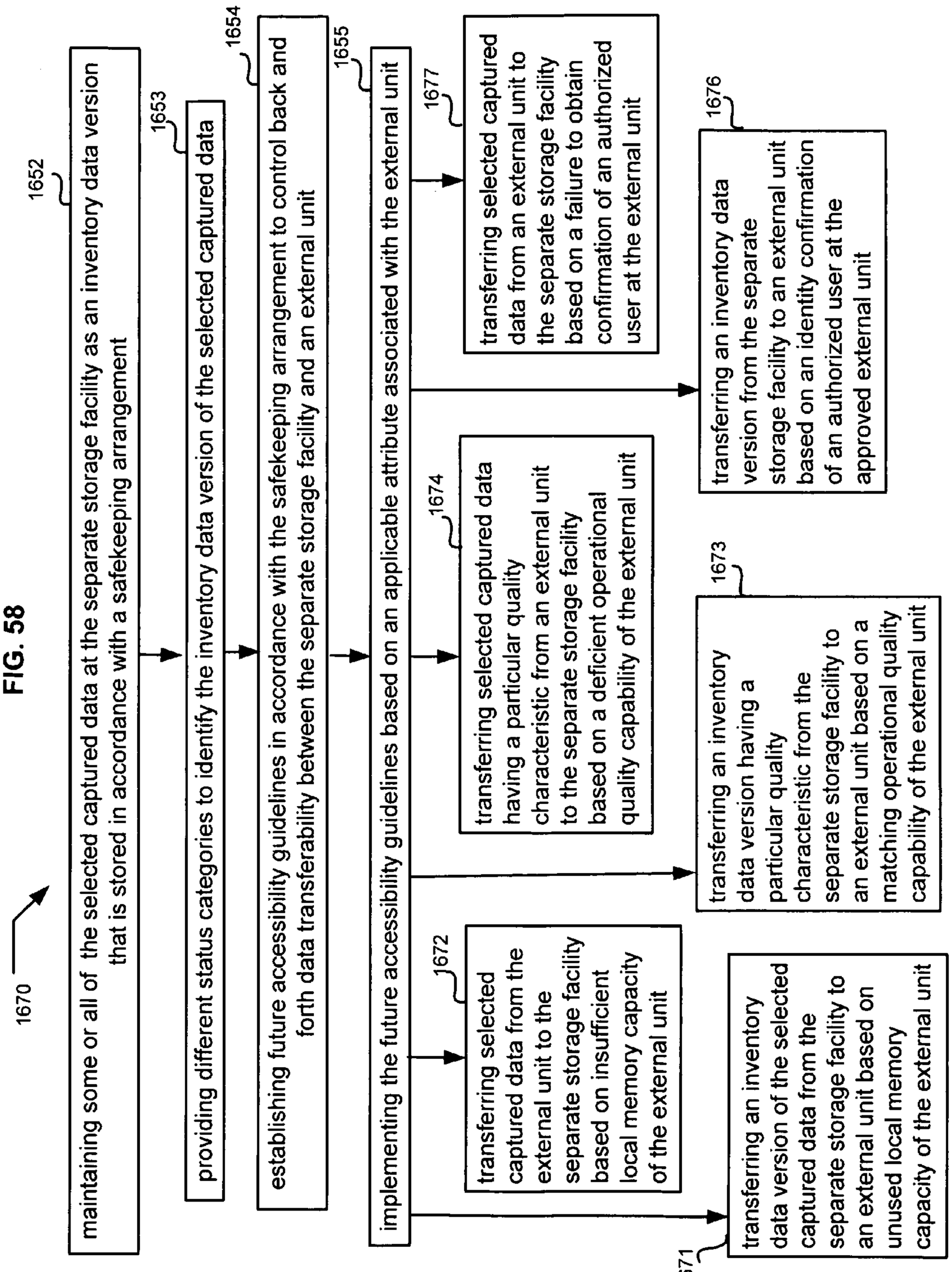

1670
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1652
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
1653
establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
1654
implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit
1655
1671
transferring an inventory data version of the selected captured data from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on unused local memory capacity of the external unit
1672
transferring selected captured data from the external unit to the separate storage facility based on insufficient local memory capacity of the external unit
1673
transferring an inventory data version having a particular quality characteristic from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on a matching operational quality capability of the external unit
1674
transferring selected captured data having a particular quality characteristic from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on a deficient operational quality capability of the external unit
1676
transferring an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on an identity confirmation of an authorized user at the approved external unit
1677
transferring selected captured data from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on a failure to obtain confirmation of an authorized user at the external unit

FIG. 59

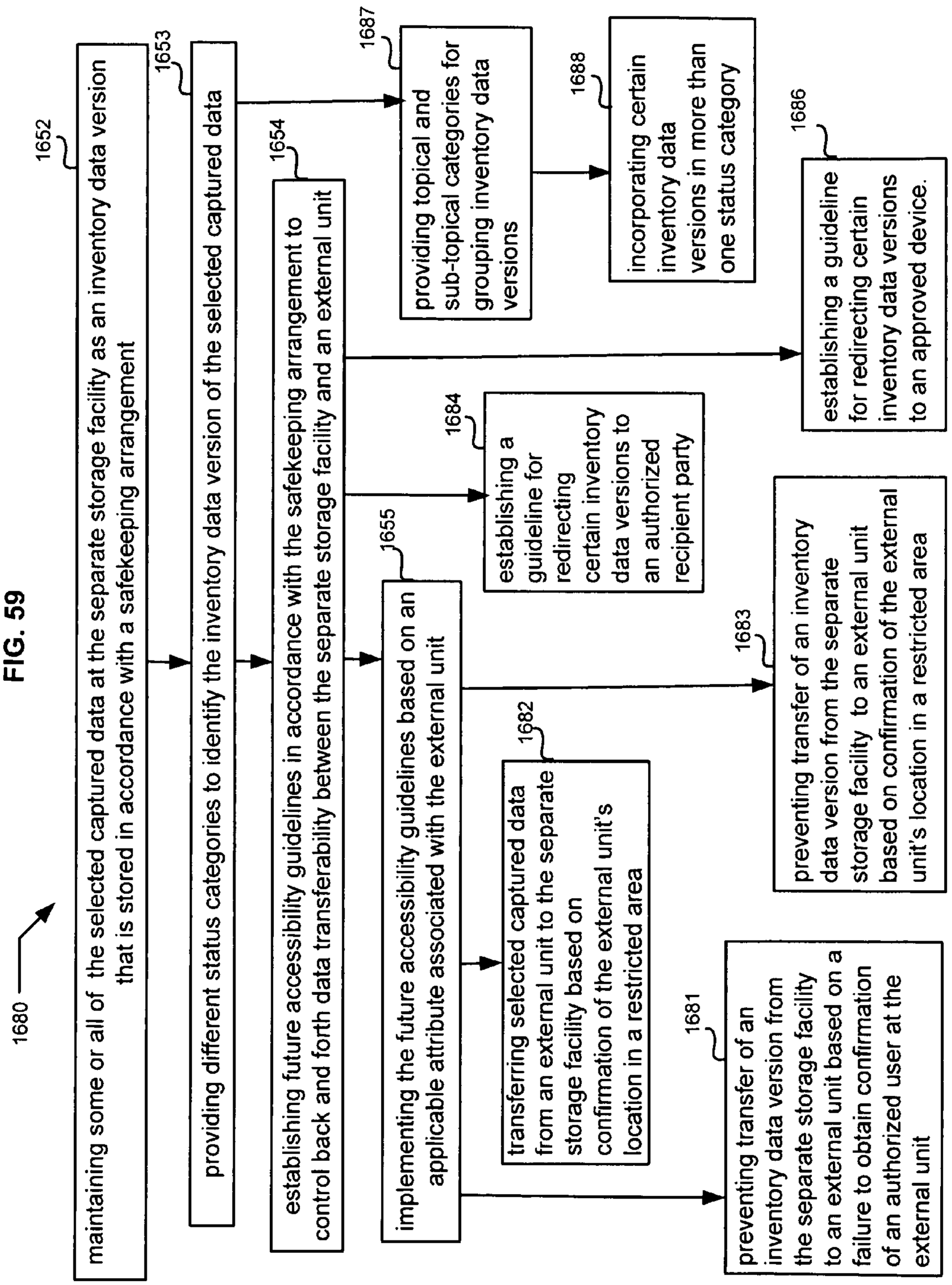

1680
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit
1681
preventing transfer of an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on a failure to obtain confirmation of an authorized user at the external unit
transferring selected captured data from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on confirmation of the external unit's location in a restricted area
1682
1683
preventing transfer of an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on confirmation of the external unit's location in a restricted area
establishing a guideline for redirecting certain inventory data versions to an authorized recipient party
1684
1652
1653
1654
1687
providing topical and sub-topical categories for grouping inventory data versions
1688
incorporating certain inventory data versions in more than one status category
1686
establishing a guideline for redirecting certain inventory data versions to an approved device.

FIG. 60

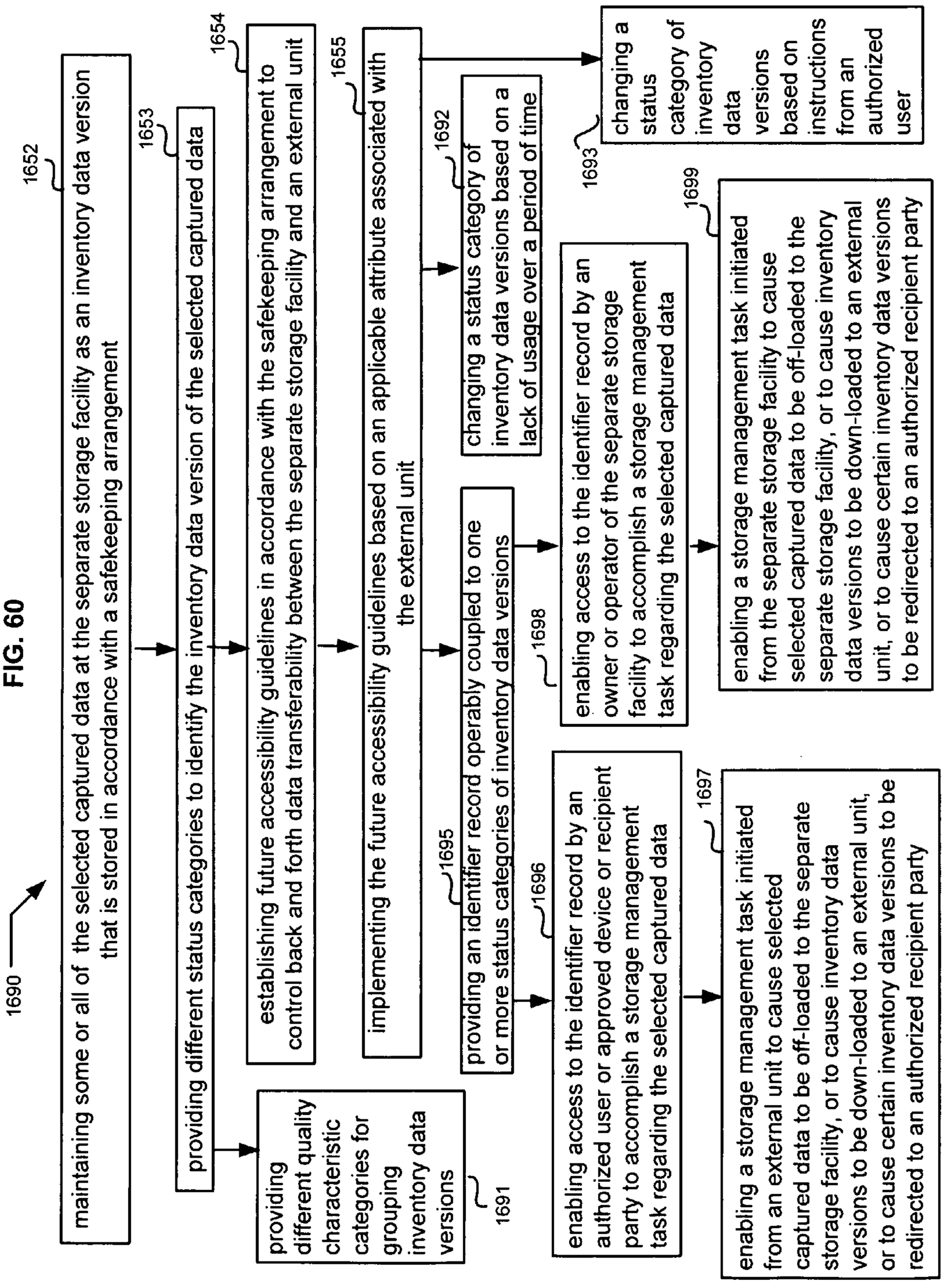

1690
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1652
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
1653
establishing a safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
1654
implementing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement regulating the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit
1655
providing different quality characteristic categories for grouping inventory data versions
1691
providing an identifier record operably coupled to one or more status categories of inventory data versions
1695
enabling access to the identifier record by an authorized user or approved device or recipient party to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data
1696
enabling access to the identifier record by an owner or operator of the separate storage facility to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data
1698
changing a status category of inventory data versions based on a lack of usage over a period of time
1692
changing a status category of inventory data versions based on instructions from an authorized user
1693
enabling a storage management task initiated from an external unit to cause selected captured data to be off-loaded to the separate storage facility, or to cause inventory data versions to be down-loaded to an external unit, or to cause certain inventory data versions to be redirected to an authorized recipient party
1697
enabling a storage management task initiated from the separate storage facility to cause selected captured data to be off-loaded to the separate storage facility, or to cause inventory data versions to be down-loaded to an external unit, or to cause certain inventory data versions to be redirected to an authorized recipient party
1699

FIG. 61

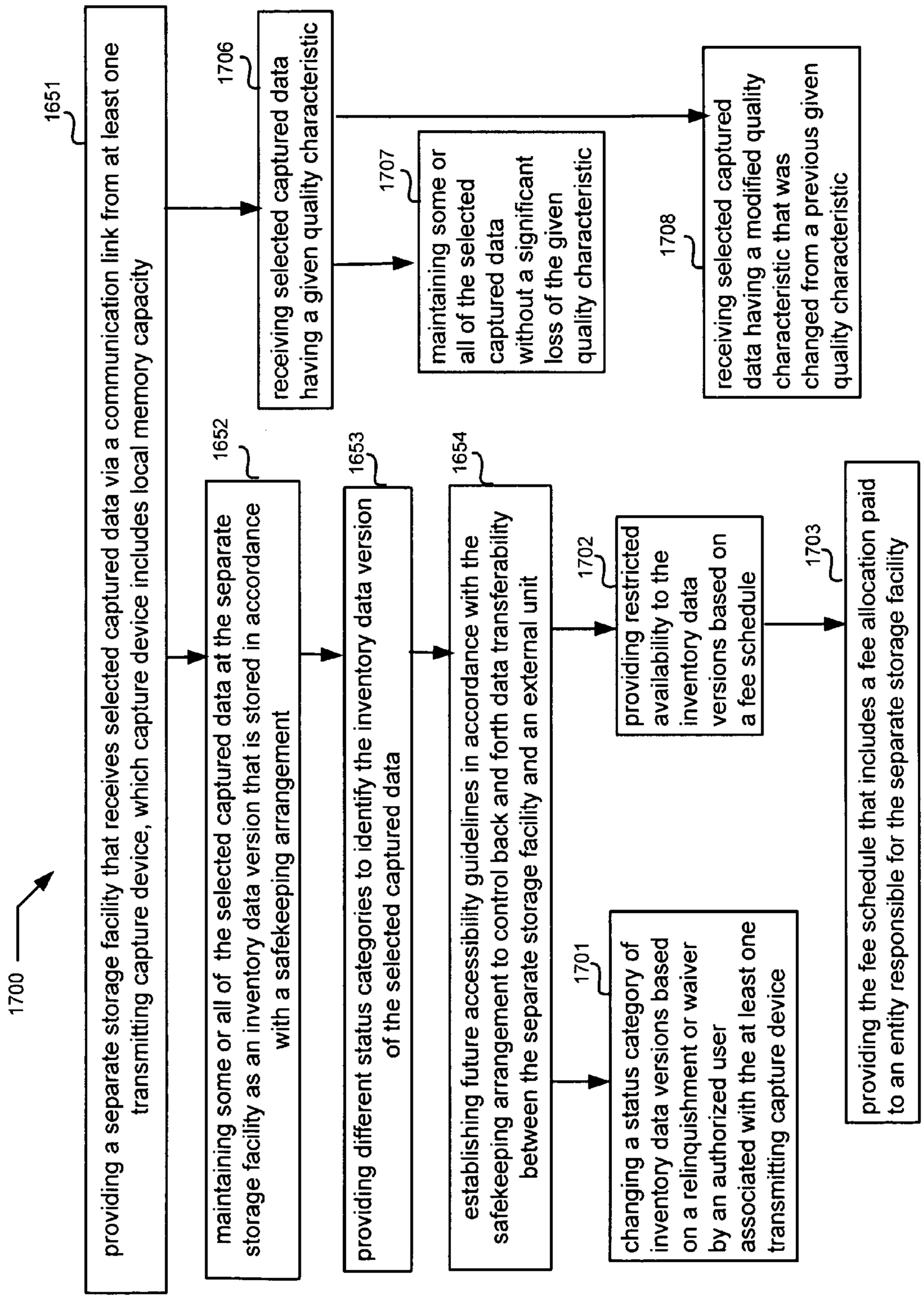

1700
providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes local memory capacity
1651
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1652
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
1653
establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
1654
changing a status category of inventory data versions based on a relinquishment or waiver by an authorized user associated with the at least one transmitting capture device
1701
providing restricted availability to the inventory data versions based on a fee schedule
1702
providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage facility
1703
receiving selected captured data and having a given quality characteristic
1706
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data without a significant loss of the given quality characteristic
1707
receiving selected captured data having a modified quality characteristic that was changed from a previous given quality characteristic
1708

FIG. 62

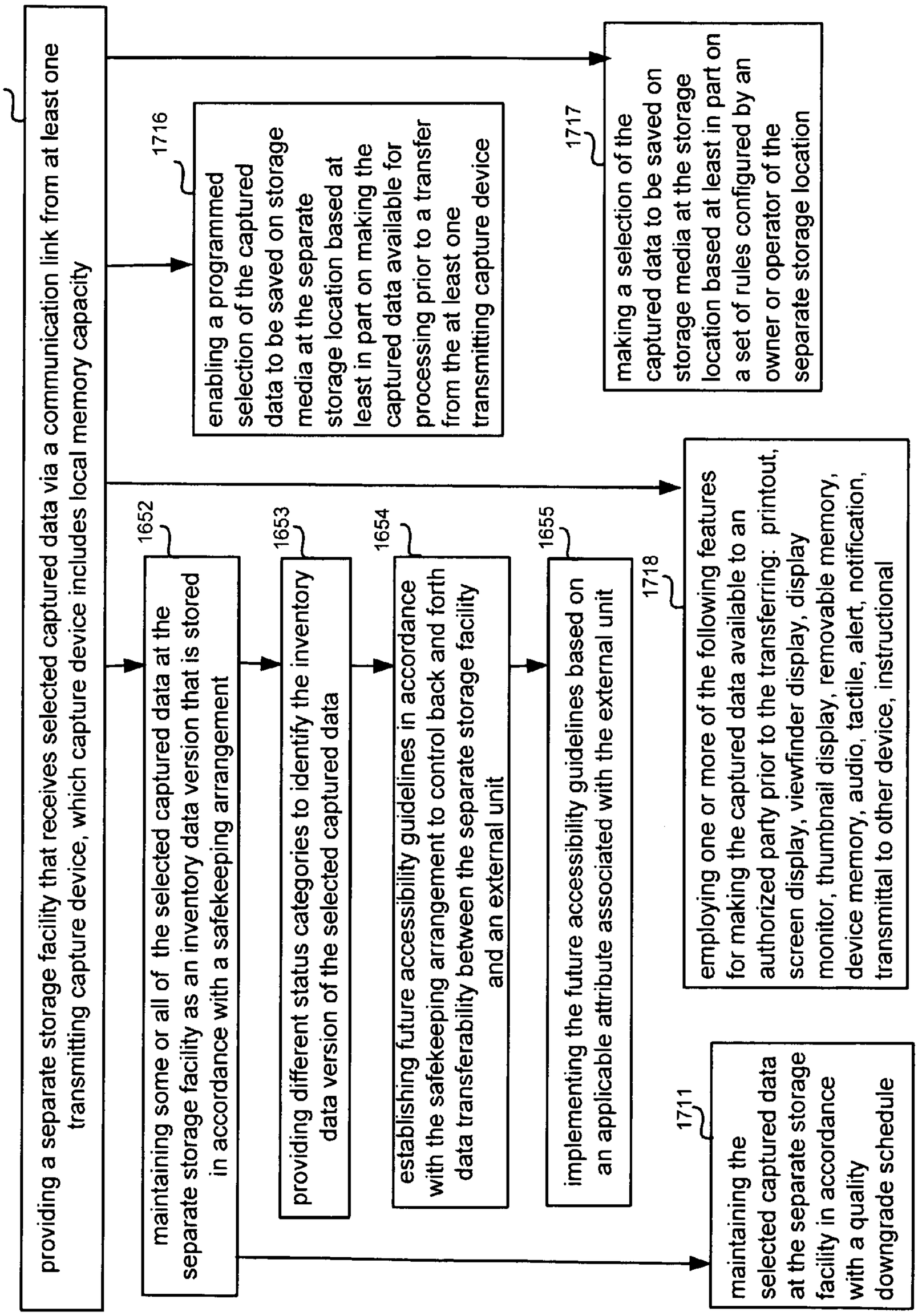
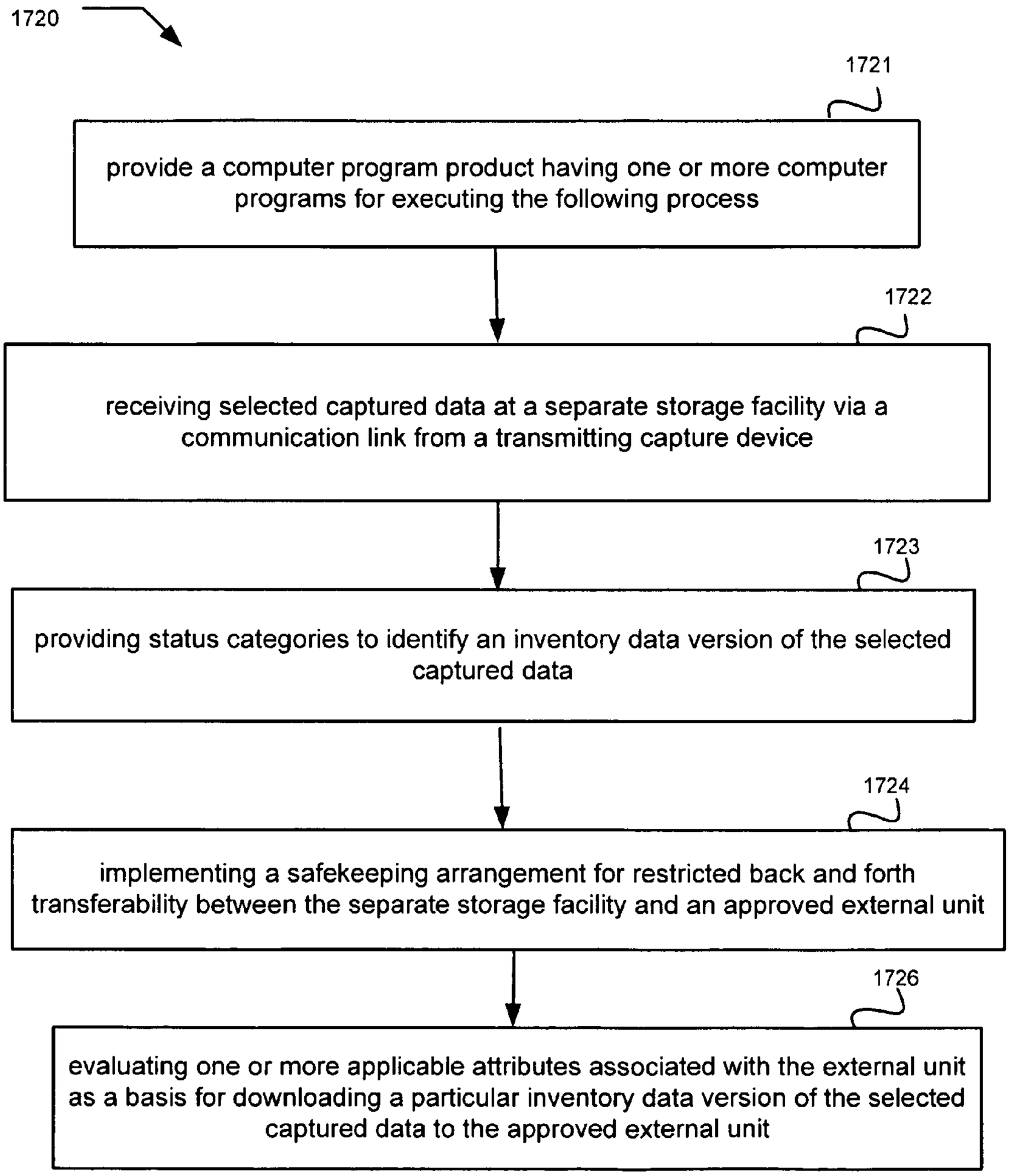

1710
providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes local memory capacity
1651
maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement
1652
providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data
1653
establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit
1654
implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit
1655
enabling a programmed selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available for processing prior to a transfer from the at least one transmitting capture device
1716
making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an owner or operator of the separate storage location
1717
employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to an authorized party prior to the transferring: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, instructional
1718
maintaining the selected captured data at the separate storage facility in accordance with a quality downgrade schedule
1711

FIG. 63


1720
1721
provide a computer program product having one or more computer programs for executing the following process
1722
receiving selected captured data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from a transmitting capture device
1723
providing status categories to identify an inventory data version of the selected captured data
1724
implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and an approved external unit
1726
evaluating one or more applicable attributes associated with the external unit as a basis for downloading a particular inventory data version of the selected captured data to the approved external unit

DATA STORAGE USAGE PROTOCOL

PRIORITY CLAIM, CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION, AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The present application is related to and claims the benefit of the earliest available effective filing date(s) from the following listed application(s) (the "Related Applications") (e.g., claims earliest available priority dates for other than provisional patent applications or claims benefits under 35 USC § 119(e) for provisional patent applications, for any and all parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc. applications of the Related Application(s)).

RELATED APPLICATIONS

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled ESTIMATING SHARED IMAGE DEVICE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES OR RESOURCES, naming Edward K. Y. Jung, Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, Mark A. Malamud, and John D. Rinaldo, Jr. as inventors, filed Jun. 2, 2005, Ser. No. 11/143,970, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date;

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled SHARED IMAGE DEVICE DESIGNATION, naming Edward K. Y. Jung, Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, Mark A. Malamud, and John D. Rinaldo, Jr. as inventors, filed Jul. 26, 2005, Ser. No. 11/190,516, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date;

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled SAVED-IMAGE MANAGEMENT, naming Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, and Mark A. Malamud, as inventors, filed Oct. 31, 2005, Ser. No. 11/263,587, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled CONDITIONAL ALTERATION OF A SAVED IMAGE, naming Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, and Mark A. Malamud, as inventors, filed Nov. 1, 2005, Ser. No. 11/264,701 which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled DATA MANAGEMENT OF A DATA STREAM, naming Edward K.Y. Jung, Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, Mark A. Malamud, and John D. Rinaldo, Jr. as inventors, filed Mar. 15, 2006, Ser. No. 11/376,627 which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled STORAGE ACCESS TECHNIQUE FOR CAPTURED DATA, naming Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, and Mark A. Malamud as inventors, filed Apr. 3, 2006, Ser. No. 11/397,357 which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a continuation in part of United States patent application entitled THIRD PARTY STORAGE OF CAPTURED DATA, naming Royce A. Levien, Robert W. Lord, and Mark A. Malamud as inventors, filed Apr. 13, 2006, Ser. No. 11/404,104, which is currently co-pending, or is an application of which a currently co-pending application listed as a Related Application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date.

All subject matter of the Related Applications and of any and all parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc. applications of the Related Applications is incorporated herein by reference to the extent such subject matter is not inconsistent herewith.

SUMMARY

Various computerized system embodiments for managing data received from a transmitting device are disclosed herein. A possible computerized system implementation for managing data received from a remote device may provide data storage files including one or more saved versions of selected captured data received from a transmitting capture device; computer apparatus operably coupled with said data storage files; and one or more program applications configured to enable future back and forth transferability of the selected captured data between the separate data storage facility and an external unit. Additional program application features may provide for such transferability to be dependent upon confirmation that transferability occurs with an authorized party or approved device or authorized recipient party, and wherein an operational attribute of a destination storage facility or destination device is matched with a corresponding aspect of the transferred captured data.

Some exemplary process embodiments disclosed herein provide a data storage protocol technique that includes providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes local memory capacity; maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement; and providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data. Additional possible process features may include establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit, and implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit.

Exemplary computer program product embodiments having one or more computer programs may be provided for executing a process that includes receiving selected captured data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from a transmitting capture device, providing status categories to identify an inventory data version of the selected captured data, and implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and an approved external unit. An

additional aspect may include evaluating one or more applicable attributes associated with the external unit as a basis for downloading a particular inventory data version of the selected captured data to the approved external unit.

The foregoing summary is illustrative only and is not intended to be in any way limiting. In addition to the illustrative aspects, embodiments, and features described above, further aspects, embodiments, and features will become apparent by reference to the drawings and the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** illustrates the exemplary system that includes a thin computing device that may interface with an electronic device;

FIG. **2** illustrates an exemplary system in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIG. **3** illustrates an exemplary system in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIGS. **4**A-C illustrates an exemplary operation that decreases the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium;

FIG. **5** illustrates an exemplary operational flow;

FIG. **6** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **5**;

FIG. **7** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **5**;

FIG. **8** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **5**;

FIG. **9** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **5**;

FIG. **10** illustrates an exemplary environment in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIG. **11** illustrates an exemplary operational flow;

FIG. **12** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **13** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **14** illustrates another alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **15** illustrates an exemplary operational flow;

FIG. **16** illustrates another embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **15**;

FIG. **17** illustrates a further embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **15**;

FIG. **18** illustrates a further embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **15**;

FIG. **19** illustrates another embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **15**;

FIGS. **20**A-D illustrates an embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **16**;

FIG. **21** illustrates an exemplary device in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIG. **22** illustrates another exemplary device in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIG. **23** illustrates a further exemplary device in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIG. **24** illustrates an exemplary operational flow in which embodiments may be implemented;

FIG. **25** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **24**;

FIG. **26** illustrates another alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **24**;

FIG. **27** illustrates a further alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **24**;

FIG. **28** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **24**;

FIG. **29** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow of FIG. **24**; and

FIG. **30** illustrates an exemplary system in which embodiments may be implemented.

FIG. **31** is a high level flow chart showing an exemplary data storage access embodiment.

FIGS. **32-41** are more detailed flow charts illustrating further exemplary embodiments.

FIG. **42** illustrates an exemplary computer program product embodiment.

FIG. **43** is a schematic block diagram showing exemplary data storage communication embodiments.

FIG. **44** schematically illustrates other possible features incorporated in an exemplary separate storage facility/location.

FIG. **45** schematically illustrates other possible features incorporated in an exemplary capture/transmitting device.

FIG. **46** is a high level flow chart showing another exemplary data storage access embodiment.

FIGS. **47-51** are detailed flow charts illustrating additional exemplary embodiments.

FIG. **52** illustrates another exemplary computer program product embodiment.

FIG. **53** is a schematic block diagram showing exemplary embodiments for a capture device and a separate data storage facility.

FIG. **54** schematically illustrates additional exemplary data storage access embodiments.

FIG. **55** is a schematic diagram showing exemplary storage categories for captured data.

FIG. **56** is a high level flow chart showing a further exemplary process embodiment.

FIGS. **57-62** are detailed flow charts illustrating other exemplary embodiments.

FIG. **63** illustrates a further exemplary computer program product embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. The illustrative embodiments described in the detailed description, drawings, and claims are not meant to be limiting. Other embodiments may be utilized, and other changes may be made, without departing from the spirit or scope of the subject matter presented here.

FIG. **1** provides a brief, general description of an illustrative and/or suitable exemplary environment in which embodiments may be implemented. In FIG. **1**, as in the other figures, the figure is an example of an environment and does not suggest any limitation as to the structure, scope of use, or functionality of an embodiment. An embodiment should not be interpreted as having any dependency or requirement relating to any one or combination of components illustrated in an exemplary environment. For example, in certain instances, elements of an environment and/or a method may be deemed not necessary and omitted. In other instances, other elements may be deemed necessary and added.

FIG. **1** illustrates the exemplary system that includes a thin computing device **20** that may interface with an electronic device (not shown). The electronic device may include one or more functional elements **51**. For example, the electronic device may include any item having electrical

and/or electronic components playing a role in a functionality of the item, such as a limited resource computing device, a game console, a digital camera, a cell phone, a printer, a refrigerator, a car, and an airplane. The thin computing device includes a processing unit **21**, a system memory **22**, and a system bus **23** that couples various system components including the system memory to the processing unit. The system bus may be any of several types of bus structures including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures. The system memory includes read-only memory (ROM) **24** and random access memory (RAM) **25**. A basic input/output system (BIOS) **26**, containing the basic routines that help to transfer information between subcomponents within the thin computing device, such as during start-up, is stored in the ROM. A number of program modules may be stored in the ROM and/or RAM, including an operating system **28**, one or more application programs **29**, other program modules **30**, and program data **31**.

A user may enter commands and information into the computing device **20** through user input devices, such as a number of switches and buttons, illustrated as hardware buttons **44**, which may be associated with the electronic device and connected via a suitable interface **45**. Input devices may further include a touch-sensitive display screen **32** with suitable input detection circuitry **33**. The output circuitry of the touch-sensitive display screen is connected to the system bus **23** via a video driver **37**. Other input devices may include a microphone **34** connected through a suitable audio interface **35**, and a physical hardware keyboard (not shown). In addition to the display **32**, the computing device **20** may include other peripheral output devices, such as at least one speaker **38**.

Other external input or output devices **39**, such as a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, an external computer readable medium, or the like may be connected to the processing unit **21** through a USB port **40** and USB port interface **41**, to the system bus **23**. Alternatively, the other external input and output devices **39** may be connected by other interfaces, such as a parallel port, game port or other port. The computing device **20** may further include or be capable of connecting to a flash card memory (not shown) through an appropriate connection port (not shown). The computing device may further include or be capable of a connection with a network through a network port **42** and network interface **43**, and/or through wireless port **46** and corresponding wireless interface **47**. Such a connection may be provided to facilitate communication with other peripheral devices, including other computers, printers, and so on (not shown). It will be appreciated that the various components and connections shown are exemplary and other components and means of establishing communications links may be used.

The computing device **20** may be designed to include a user interface having a character, key-based, other user data input via the touch sensitive display **32** using a stylus (not shown). Moreover, the user interface is not limited to an actual touch-sensitive panel arranged for directly receiving input, but may alternatively or in addition respond to another input device, such as the microphone **34**. For example, spoken words may be received at the microphone **34** and recognized. Alternatively, the computing device may be designed to include a user interface having a physical keyboard (not shown).

The device functional elements **51** are typically application specific and related to a function of the electronic device. The device functional elements are driven by a device functional element(s) interface **50**, which coupled with the system bus **23**. A functional element may typically perform a single well-defined task with little or no user configuration or setup, such as a refrigerator keeping food cold, a cell phone connecting with an appropriate tower and transceiving voice or data information, and/or a camera capturing and saving an image.

In the description that follows, certain embodiments may be described with reference to acts and symbolic representations of operations that are performed by one or more computing devices, such as the thin computing device **20** of FIG. **1**. As such, it will be understood that such acts and operations, which are at times referred to as being computer-executed, include the manipulation by the processing unit of the computer of electrical signals representing data in a structured form. This manipulation transforms the data or maintains them at locations in the memory system of the computer, which reconfigures or otherwise alters the operation of the computer in a manner well understood by those skilled in the art. The data structures in which data is maintained are physical locations of the memory that have particular properties defined by the format of the data. However, while an embodiment is being described in the foregoing context, it is not meant to be limiting as those of skill in the art will appreciate that the acts and operations described hereinafter may also be implemented in hardware.

Embodiments may be described in a general context of computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, being executed by a computer. Generally, program modules include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, etc., that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. An embodiment may also be practiced in a distributed computing environment where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote computer storage media including memory storage devices.

Embodiments may be implemented with numerous other general-purpose or special-purpose computing devices, computing system environments, and/or configurations. Examples of well-known computing systems, environments, and/or configurations that may be suitable for use with an embodiment include, but are not limited to, personal computers, handheld or laptop devices, personal digital assistants, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based systems, set top boxes, programmable consumer electronics, network, minicomputers, server computers, game server computers, web server computers, mainframe computers, and distributed computing environments that include any of the above systems or devices.

FIG. **2** illustrates an exemplary system **200** in which embodiments may be implemented. The system includes a digital camera **210** having image capture and image storage functionality. The digital camera **210** includes a computing device (not shown), such as the thin computing device **20** described in conjunction with FIG. **1**, that is operable to interact with functional elements of the digital camera. The digital camera also includes a plurality of user interfaces **220**. The plurality of interfaces **220** includes a display **232**. In alternative embodiments, the display may provide a textual, a visual display, and/or a graphical display. In a further embodiment, the display may include touch screen functionality operable to accept a user input. The plurality of user interfaces of the camera also includes a microphone **234**, a speaker **238**, and a plurality of tangible buttons **244**A-**244**E. One or more of the tangible buttons may

include a light emitter, such as a light emitting device **246**A. Further, one or more of the tangible buttons **244**A-**244**E may include a vibrator operable to provide a tactile display. The display **232** and the tangible buttons **244**A-**244**E may have any functionality appropriate to the digital camera. For example, the button **244**E may be assigned to operate a camera element, such as a shutter function. The button **244**A may be assigned an "enter" function, and buttons **244**B and **244**C may be respectively assigned a scroll up and scroll down function relative to a menu displayed on the display **232**. The button **244**D may be assigned to operate another camera element, such as a lens zoom function. The digital camera also includes context sensors **250**, which may be selected, for example, to produce relevant information about an environment extrinsic to the digital camera. The context sensors are illustrated as an external temperature sensor **252** and a light intensity sensor **254**. The digital camera further includes a USB port **240**, a network port **242**, and/or a wireless port (not shown).

In addition, the digital camera **210** includes a lens (not shown) and an image acquisition module (not shown). The image acquisition module controls the lens, a shutter, an aperture, and/or other elements as necessary to capture an image through the lens. In an embodiment, capturing images using digital cameras or camcorders may be equated with photography as performed by conventional film cameras. A captured image may be processed, stored, viewed, and/or distributed by the digital camera. The digital camera also includes a system memory (not shown), such as the system memory **22** of the thin computing device **20** of FIG. **1**. The system memory includes saved operating systems and programs necessary to operate the digital camera. In addition, the digital camera may include a computer readable media (not shown), such as the computer readable medium described in conjunction with FIG. **3** below.

The digital camera **210** includes operability to receive a user input through an interface of the plurality of interfaces **220**. For example, in an embodiment, detecting a user touch to the button **244**D may be received as an instruction and/or a selection. Another detected user touch to another user interface of the plurality of user interfaces **220** may be received as another instruction and/or a selection. The user touch may be detected by a user interface physically incorporated in the aspect of the digital camera **210** or proximate thereto. In an alternative embodiment, a user input may be received by detecting a signal responsive to a sound or voice received by the microphone **234**. For example, a detection and recognition of a signal responsive to a spoken command to the microphone **234** may be received as an instruction to activate a program associated with the digital camera. Further, a detection of a signal responsive to a sound or voice may be received by the microphone **234**.

FIG. **3** illustrates an exemplary system **300** in which embodiments may be implemented. The system includes a digital camera **310**. The digital camera includes an image acquisition module **320** operable to capture an image, an image management module **330**, and a computer readable medium, illustrated as computer readable media **340**.

In an embodiment, the digital camera **310** may include a computing device (not expressly shown) that handles any required processing. For example, the computing device may include at least a part of the system described in conjunction with FIG. **1**, including the thin computing device **20**, that may interface with at least one functional element of the digital camera. In an embodiment, the digital camera may include a processing unit, illustrated as a processing unit **350**, and a system memory **355**, which may be substantially similar to the processing unit **21** and the system memory **22** respectively of FIG. **1**. In another embodiment, the digital camera may include at least a part of the exemplary system **200** and/or the digital camera **210** described in conjunction with FIG. **2**.

The image management module **330** includes an operability to save a captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium **340** and in a user-accessible form. In an embodiment, the operability to save the captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an operability to save a captured image in a format at least substantially suitable for presentation by a visual display of the digital camera **310**, such as a display screen. For example, the operability to save a captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form may include an operability to save a captured image at a resolution in a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF format, or a PDF format. In another embodiment, the operability to save the captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an operability to save the captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium after data representative of the captured image has been decoded and processed from a raw format. Typically, the raw data is decoded and/or processed from a raw format, i.e., raw image data, into a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF format, or a PDF format. In a further embodiment, the operability to save the captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an operability to save the captured image in a form accessible to a user of the digital camera in the computer readable medium. For example, the form accessible to a user of the digital camera may include a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF format, a PDF format, or a raw format where the digital camera allows a user access to a saved captured image in a raw format.

In an embodiment, an "image" may include a full image. In another embodiment, an "image" may include a portion of an image, a segment of a full image, a thumbnail of an image, and/or an icon that pertains to an image. Another embodiment of an "image" may include a photograph and/or a digital image that can be captured by an image capture device such as, for example, the digital camera **310**. Certain embodiments of a streaming image may include a video that may be captured by the digital camera, such as, for example, a digital camcorder camera.

The term "resolution" may include an indication of a measurement of image detail, such as may be expressed as pixels per inch, dots per inch, or samples per inch, etc. In certain embodiments, a file size of an image is a function of its resolution, and in certain embodiments of relatively limited storage-capability cameras, relatively few high-resolution images can be saved.

In another embodiment, a "user-accessible form" may include at least one of a location in the computer readable medium that allows a user to access a file saved therein, a file formatted to allow a user of the digital camera **310** to view and/or manipulate the captured image, a property of the captured image written to the computer readable medium, and/or an organization of the computer readable medium that allows a user to access a file saved therein. For example, data indicative of the captured image written to a hard drive in a JPEG format generally allows a user to view and/or manipulate the captured image. In an embodiment, a user-accessible storage medium may include all or any portion of any computer readable storage medium that allows a user, typically through a user interface, to act with respect to

and/or interact with the image, such as viewing the image, manipulating the image, and/or directing the image to another location.

The image management module **330** also includes an operability to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met. In an embodiment, the condition may include a condition corresponding in part or whole to a state of the computer readable medium, a presence and/or absence of a predetermined content of the saved captured image, a characteristic of the saved image, an image storage administrative criterion, and/or a temporal criterion. In a further embodiment, a condition does not include an automatic or standing condition that normally occurs upon completion of a processing, for example, completion of decoding raw image data into a more machine usable and/or user viewable format.

Examples of decreasing a resolution of a saved captured image include, but are not limited to, changing a resolution of a saved captured image, resampling a saved captured image, adjusting an exposure of a saved captured image, adjusting some image content of a saved captured image, and/or adjusting image composition of a saved captured image. As described within this document, certain embodiments of the decreasing a resolution of a saved captured image are configurable to decrease the resolution of the image such as by utilizing pixel-combination and/or combination of multiple images. The decreasing a resolution of a saved captured image may include altering image intensity and/or color values. The decreasing a resolution of a saved captured image may in certain embodiments, but not others, be equated to sizing the resolution of an image downward, and may other embodiments be implemented by removing pixels from the saved captured image. The decreasing a resolution of a saved captured image may pertain in certain embodiments, but not others, to altering the color values and/or the color intensities of a particular image. The decreasing a resolution of a saved captured image may pertain to decreasing the density of the pixels forming the image. During a resolution decreasing process, in certain embodiments of a display or projector, a footprint of pixels may be suitably altered to effectively change the resolution of the at least one image.

In an embodiment, the computer readable media **340** may include a variety of computer readable media products. The computer readable media may include any storage media accessible by a computing device, and includes both removable and non-removable media. By way of example, and not of limitation, computer-readable media may include any computer storage media. Computer storage media includes removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer-readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data. Computer storage media may include, but are not limited to, magnetic devices, such as magnetic disk storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, or other magnetic storage devices; optical devices, such as CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD), or other optical disk storage; memory cards, such a flash memory card; and/or any other medium which may be used to store the captured information and which can be accessed by a computing device. Combinations of any of the above may also be included within the scope of a computer-readable medium.

FIG. **3** illustrates an embodiment where the computer readable media **340** includes at least one instance of a computer readable medium. Illustrated instances of a computer readable medium include a computer storage device **348**, a non-removable non-volatile medium **346**, and/or a removable non-volatile medium **344**. In an embodiment, the computer storage device may include any device capable of storing data, such as, for example, a mass storage device, a disk drive, and/or a tape drive. In another embodiment, the non-removable non-volatile medium may include a non-volatile magnetic disk or other medium. In a further embodiment, the removable non-volatile medium may include an optical disk such as a CD ROM, magnetic tape cassettes, flash memory cards, DVDs, and/or digital video tape.

In an embodiment, the computer readable medium **340** includes a non-volatile computer storage device. In another embodiment, the computer readable medium includes a non-volatile computer readable medium. In a further embodiment, the computer readable medium includes a removable non-volatile computer readable medium.

In an embodiment, the image acquisition module **320** operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture a still image, an image stream, and/or a combination of a still image and an image stream. In another embodiment, the image acquisition module operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture at least one of a visual image, an audio image, and/or a combination of a visual image and an audio image. In a further embodiment, the image acquisition module operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture an image in response to a received instruction from another digital device. The received instruction from another digital device may include an instruction received from another digital camera. The received instruction may direct capture of the image, or may include data responsive to which the image acquisition module captures the image.

In an embodiment, the image management module **330** operable to save a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an image management module operable to save a captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible album of images stored in a computer readable medium. In another embodiment, the image management module operable to save a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium includes an image management module operable to save a captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible collection of images stored in a computer readable medium. In a further embodiment, the image management module operable to save a captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an image management module operable to save a captured image at a resolution in a user-accessible data structure.

In an embodiment, the image management module **330** operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met includes an image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium using a lossy compression algorithm if a condition is met. In another embodiment, the image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met includes an image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a time exceeds a preselected time threshold. The preselected time threshold may exceed five seconds. The preselected time threshold may exceed at least a selected one of ten seconds, thirty

seconds, one minute, thirty minutes, ninety minutes, five hours, twelve hours, one day, one week, one month, or one year.

In a further embodiment, the image management module **330** operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met includes an image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a time value is inside a preselected time window. In an embodiment, the image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met includes an image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met where the condition corresponds to at least one of a storage space availability in the computer readable medium, a user established parameter, a preselected content of the image, and/or a parameter established by a storage management algorithm. In another embodiment, the image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met includes an image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition independent of the operation to save a captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium is met. In a further embodiment, the image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met includes an image management module operable to decrease the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition responsive to an examination of at least one other captured image saved in the computer readable medium is met. For example, a condition responsive to an examination of at least one other captured image saved in the computer readable medium may include examining a content and/or context of the at least one or more other saved captured images for a repetition and/or duplication. If at least one other saved captured image is examined and found to be repetitive and/or duplicative of the saved captured image, the condition would be met and the image management module would operate to reduce the resolution of the saved captured image. In an alternative embodiment, the image management module may include an operability to reduce the resolution of the at least one other saved image in response to the condition being met.

In an embodiment, the image management module **330** may further include an image management module operable to further decrease the resolution of the captured image saved in the computer readable medium if another condition is met.

FIGS. **4**A-C illustrate an exemplary operation **400** that decreases the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium. The operation is described using the exemplary system **300** and the digital camera **310** of FIG. **3** as an example. In operation of an embodiment of the exemplary system, a user may compose a picture by orientating the lens **360** toward a subject in a scene. The user may communicate their preferences about the intended picture to the digital camera using elements of the user interface **370**. Upon shutter activation, an imaging chip **322** of the image acquisition module **320** generates electrical signals corresponding to the scene in a raw-format. A processing unit **350** and/or an image management module **330** of the digital camera decodes and/or processes the raw-format image of the scene into a format, such as a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF format, or a PDF format. The decoding and/or processing typically involve the system memory **355** of FIG. **3**. The image management module **330** then saves the captured image in a post-decoded/processed format, such as the JPEG format, at an initial resolution **410** in the computer readable medium **340**. FIG. **4**A illustrates the saved captured image in the post-decoded/processed format, such as a JPEG format, in the file at, at the initial resolution **410** in the computer readable medium. Typically, the file will have an initial file size measured in bytes.

If a condition is met, the image management module **330** decreases the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium **340** from the initial resolution **410** to a decreased resolution **415**. For example, a condition may include whether a user has not caused the digital camera **310** to display the captured saved image at the initial resolution **410** for more than ten seconds in the 30 days immediately after the image was captured. The image management module monitors for the condition being met. If the condition is met, i.e., a user has not caused the digital camera to display the saved captured image at the initial resolution for more than 10 seconds during the 30 days after the image was captured, the image management module decreases the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium. The resolution of the saved captured image is decreased from the initial resolution **410** to a lesser or decreased resolution, illustrated as the decreased resolution **415**.

If another condition is met, the image management module **330** may further decrease the decreased resolution **415** of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium **340**. For example, a condition may include whether a user has not caused the digital camera **310** to display the captured saved image at its decreased resolution **415** for more than ninety seconds during the **90** days after the resolution was reduced from the file **410**. If the condition is met, i.e., a user has not caused the digital camera to display the saved captured image for more than ninety seconds during the **90** days after the saved captured image was reduced, the image management module further decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium. The resolution is decreased from the decreased resolution **415** to a further decreased resolution, illustrated as a further decreased resolution **420**. In an embodiment, each decreased resolution is selected to use less file storage space in the computer readable medium than its predecessor does. In an embodiment, less viewed or lower user-valued files have their resolution degraded over time to maximize available storage capacity for newly captured images and/or frequently viewed images.

FIG. **5** illustrates an exemplary operational flow **600**. The exemplary operational flow may be implemented in the exemplary system **300** described in conjunction with FIG. **3**. After a start operation, a storage operation **610** writes a captured image at a resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form. A transformation operation **630** decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met. The operational flow then proceeds to an end operation.

FIG. **6** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **600** of FIG. **5**. The storage operation **610** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **612**, and/or an operation **614**. The operation **612** writes an image captured by a digital camera at a resolution in a computer readable medium associated with a digital camera and in a

user-accessible form. The operation **614** writes an image captured by a digital camera at a resolution and in a user-accessible form, the captured image being written in at least one of an album of images, and/or a collection of images stored in a computer readable medium.

FIG. **7** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **600** of FIG. **5**. The transformation operation **630** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **632**, and/or an operation **636**. The operation **632** decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a preselected time has elapsed after the writing of the captured image at a resolution in the computer readable medium. The operation **632** may include at least one additional operation, such as the operation **634**. At the operation **634**, the preselected time includes at least a selected one of five seconds, ten seconds, thirty seconds, one minute, thirty minutes, ninety minutes, five hours, twelve hours, one day, one week, one month, or one year. The operation **636** decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if at least one of an available storage space in the computer readable medium is less than a preselected amount, a condition established by a user is met, and/or a criterion corresponding to a storage management algorithm is met.

FIG. **8** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **600** of FIG. **5**. The operational flow may be implemented in a handheld digital camera **646**. The transformation operation **630** may include at least one additional operation. The additional operation may include an operation **638**, an operation **640**, and/or an operation **642**. The operation **638** decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met that is not related to the writing a captured image at resolution in a computer readable medium. The operation **640** decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition responsive to data received from a device associated with another computer readable medium is met. When the operational flow is implemented in a digital camera, the operation **642** decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition responsive to data received from another digital device is met.

FIG. **9** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **600** of FIG. **5**. The operational flow may include at least one additional operation, such as an operation **650**. The operation **650** further decreases the resolution of the written captured image in the computer readable medium if another condition is met.

FIG. **10** illustrates an exemplary environment **700** in which embodiments may be implemented. The exemplary environment includes a device **710**, which may include elements that are at least substantially similar to the digital camera **310** of FIG. **3**. The device includes an image acquisition module **720** operable to capture an image, a computer readable medium, illustrated as a computer readable media **740**, and an image administration circuit **730**. The image administration circuit includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium. The image administration circuit also includes a image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution, and for removing the captured image saved at the first resolution from the computer readable medium, both if a condition is met.

In an embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving a captured image in the computer readable medium at a first resolution includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in at least one of a nonvolatile, a removable, and/or non-removable media implemented in any method and/or technology for storage of digital information. In another embodiment, the image acquisition module **720** operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture at least one of a still image, an image stream, and/or a combination of a still image and an image stream. In a further embodiment, the image acquisition module operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture at least one of visual image, an audio image, and/or a combination of a visual image and an audio image.

In an embodiment, the image acquisition module **720** operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture a real-world image. In another embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured real-world image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium. In a further embodiment, the image acquisition module operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture a virtual-world image. In another embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured virtual-world image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium.

In another embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form. In a further embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible location. In an embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in a computer readable medium that allows user access to the saved captured image. In a further embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in the computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form includes an image administration circuit for saving a captured image at a first resolution in a computer readable medium configured for user access to the saved captured image.

In an embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a resolution reduced from the first resolution. In another embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution where at least a portion of the saved

captured image has a resolution less than the first resolution. In a further embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution includes an image administration circuit for reducing the resolution of the captured image from the first resolution into the second resolution and for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at the second resolution. In an embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution includes an image administration circuit for reducing the resolution of at least one selected frame of a streaming captured image from the first resolution into the second resolution and not reducing at least one other selected frame of the streaming captured image.

In an embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for removing the captured image saved at the first resolution from the computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for deleting the captured image saved at the first resolution from the computer readable medium. In another embodiment, the image administration circuit for removing the captured image saved at the first resolution from the computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for communicating the captured image saved at the first resolution to another computer readable medium. In an embodiment, the another computer readable medium may be physically associated with the device. In further embodiment, the another computer readable medium may not physically associated with the device.

In an embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for communicating the captured image saved at the first resolution to another computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for communicating the captured image saved at the first resolution to another computer readable medium and acquiring a track-back link to the communicated captured image. In another embodiment, the image administration circuit for removing the captured image saved at the first resolution from the computer readable medium includes an image administration circuit for communicating the captured image saved at the first resolution to at least one of another computer readable medium that is a less accessible computer readable medium, a slower computer readable medium, a cheaper computer readable medium, a temporarily available computer readable medium, an intermittently available computer readable medium, a more secure computer readable medium, a less secure computer readable medium, a public computer readable medium, a private computer readable medium, and/or a computer readable medium that is less accessible in terms of a location and/or a rate and/or a format.

In an embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a preselected time has elapsed since the captured image at a first resolution was saved in the computer readable medium. In a further embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if available storage space in the computer readable medium is less than a preselected threshold. For example, the available storage space in the computer readable medium may include a presently available storage in the computer readable medium that is less than a preselected threshold, and/or predicted availability of storage in the computer readable medium that is less than a preselected threshold.

In another embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition established by a user is met. The condition established by a user may include a user-selected condition, a user-created condition, and/or a user-determined condition. In a further embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if an image resolution changing criterion established by a storage administration criterion is met. In an embodiment, the storage administration criterion may correspond to image content, image content attributes, time, storage space, presence and/or absence of a selected subject, a frequent presence of a selected subject in other saved captured images, an at least substantial similarity to other saved captured images, and/or an at least substantial similarity to other saved captured images having a commonality; such as recently captured, captured in a time frame, and/or captured in temporal or spatial proximity. For example, a storage administration criterion may include keeping only one high resolution saved captured image of my son from all those captured during the month of December. In another example, a storage administration criterion may include keeping, i.e., not deceasing the resolution of sufficient images to enable some task or goal, such as keeping just enough images to construct a panorama, to create a high dynamic range composite, and/or an infinite depth of field image.

In an embodiment, the image administration circuit **730** for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition corresponding to data received from another digital device is met. In another embodiment, the image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition is met includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a second resolution that is less than the first resolution if a condition responsive to an examination of at least one other captured image saved in the computer readable medium is met. In a further embodiment, the another digital device includes an image acquisition module operable to capture an image. In another embodiment, the device includes a digital camera. In a further embodiment, the device includes a handheld digital camera.

In an embodiment, the an image administration circuit **730** further includes an image administration circuit for saving the captured image in the computer readable medium at a third resolution that is less than the second resolution

and removing from the computer readable medium the captured image saved at the second resolution, if another condition is met.

FIG. **11** illustrates an exemplary operational flow **800**. After a start operation, a storage operation **810** saves a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being written in a first digital file having a first file size and an availability to a user. For example, in an embodiment, after a raw image is processed, data representative of the photograph is written into a semi-permanent or permanent storage medium for a later retrieval. A reduction operation **830** saves the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size, and removes the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium, both if a condition is met. The operational flow then proceeds to an end operation.

In an embodiment, a photograph may include a single picture of a scene, a stream of pictures of a scene that may be static or dynamic, and/or a combination thereof. In another embodiment, the image acquisition module operable to capture an image includes an image acquisition module operable to capture at least one of a visual picture, a sound, and/or a combination thereof.

FIG. **12** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **800** of FIG. **11**. The storage operation **810** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **812** and/or an operation **814**. At the operation **812**, the saving a photograph in a computer readable medium includes a saving at least one of a single scene, a stream of scenes, and/or a combination of a single scene and a stream of scenes in the computer readable medium. The operation **814** saves a photograph in a computer readable medium associated with a device that took the photograph. The operation **814** may include at least one additional operation, such as the operation **816**. The operation **816** saves a photograph in a computer readable medium associated with a handheld digital camera that took the photograph.

FIG. **13** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **800** of FIG. **11**. The reduction operation **830** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **832**, an operation **834**, and operation **836**, an operation **838** and/or an operation **839**. The operation **832** saves the photograph at a resolution that results in a second and smaller file size than when written in the first digital file having a first file size. The operation **834** saves the photograph in a second digital file using a compression algorithm that results in a smaller second file size than the first file size. The operation **836** removes the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium by at least one of sending the first digital file having a first file size to another computer readable medium, and/or deleting the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium. For example, the first digital file may be removed from the computer readable medium and sent to another computer readable medium. The another computer readable medium may be permanently or removably associated with an electronic device that is also associated with the computer readable medium, such as a flash memory card or an external hard drive. Alternatively, the another computer readable medium may be permanently or removably associated with another electronic device, such as a computing device or digital camera. The operation **838** saves the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size in response to at least one of a temporal parameter, an absence of a predetermined amount of available storage space, a user established parameter, and/or a parameter established by a storage management algorithm. For example, a temporal parameter may include an elapsed time since the photograph was taken, or last viewed. An absence of a predetermined amount of available storage space may include less than a percentage of the computer readable medium being available for a storage of new data; e.g., less than 10% of a flash memory card being available. Alternatively, the absence of a predetermined amount of available storage space may include less than a preselected storage capacity being available, such as 500 KB, or 1 MB. A storage management algorithm may include an algorithm that characterizes factors that limit the amount of photographs, and alternatively other files, that may be saved on the computer readable medium, and manages the size of at least one of the digital files. The operation **839** saves the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size if a condition responsive to an examination of at least one other captured image saved in the computer readable medium is met.

FIG. **14** illustrates another alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **800** of FIG. **11**. The exemplary operational flow may include at least one additional operation, such as another reduction operation **850**. If another condition is met, the another reduction operation saves the photograph in a third digital file at a third and smaller file size than the second file size and removes the second file having a second file size from the computer readable medium.

FIG. **15** illustrates an exemplary operational flow **900**. After a start operation, the exemplary operational flow moves to a first storage operation **910**. The first storage operation saves a first image at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure. A second storage operation **920** saves a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure. If a condition is met, a degradation operation **930** saves in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image, and removes from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image. In an embodiment, the degradation operation **930** may be performed before or after the second storage operation. The operational flow then moves to an end operation.

FIG. **16** illustrates another embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **900** of FIG. **15**. The exemplary operational flow may include at least one additional operation. An additional operation may include a third storage operation **940**. The third storage operation **940** includes saving in the user-accessible data structure a third image at a first resolution of the third image. If a second condition is met, the third storage operation also includes saving in the user-accessible data structure a third resolution of the first image that is lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image.

FIG. **17** illustrates a further embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **900** of FIG. **15**. The exemplary operational flow may include at least one another additional operation. Another additional operation may include another third storage operation **962**. If a second condition is met, the another third storage operation includes saving in the user-accessible data structure a third resolution of the first image that is lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure

the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image. The operation **962** may include at least one additional operation, such as the operation **964**. If a third condition is met, the operation **964** saves in the user-accessible data structure the second image at a second resolution of the second image that is a lesser resolution than first resolution of the second image, and removes from the user-accessible data structure the second image saved at the first resolution of the second image.

FIG. **18** illustrates a further embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **900** of FIG. **15**. The exemplary operational flow may include at least one further additional operation. A further additional operation may include an operation **966**. If a second condition is met, the operation **966** saves in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a third resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image, and removes from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image. Also if the second condition is met, the operation **966** saves in the user-accessible data structure the second image at a second resolution of the second image that is a lesser resolution than first resolution of the second image, and removing from the user-accessible data structure the second image saved at the first resolution of the second image.

FIG. **19** illustrates another embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **900** of FIG. **15**. The exemplary operational flow may include at least one further additional operation. A further additional operation may include an operation **968**, which comprises an operation **986**A and an operation **968**B. At the operation **968**A, the saving in a user-accessible data structure a first image at a first resolution of the first image includes saving in a user-accessible data structure a first image of a real-world scene at a first resolution of the first image. At the operation **968**B, saving in the user-accessible data structure a second image at a first resolution of the second image includes saving in the user-accessible data structure a second image of a real-world scene at a first resolution of the second image.

FIGS. **20**A-D illustrates an embodiment **870** of the exemplary operational flow **800** of FIG. **16**. The embodiment **870** of the exemplary operational flow **800** is described using the exemplary system **300** and digital camera **310** of FIG. **3** as an example. In operation of an embodiment of the digital camera **310**, a user may compose a first picture/image by orientating the lens **360** toward a subject in a first scene. The user may communicate their preferences about the first composed picture to the digital camera using elements of the user interface **370**. Upon shutter activation, an imaging chip of the image acquisition module **320** generates electrical signals corresponding to the first picture/image in a raw format. A processing unit **350** and/or an image management module **330** of the digital camera decodes and/or processes the first image in the raw format into a format, such as a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF format, or a PDF format. The decoding and/or processing typically involves the system memory **355** of FIG. **3**. The image management module **330** then saves the first image **972** in a post-decoded/processed format, such as the JPEG format, at a first resolution of the first image in a user-accessible data structure, illustrated as the user-accessible data structure **340** of FIG. **3**. FIG. **20**A illustrates the first image in the post-decoded/processed format saved in a file at a first resolution of the first image in the user-accessible data structure **980**, such as the JPEG format. In an alternative embodiment, the first image may be saved in a raw format in the user-accessible data structure.

For a second image, the user may compose a second picture/image by orientating the lens **360** toward a subject in a second scene as above. The image management module **330** saves the second image **974** at a first resolution of the second image in the computer readable medium **980**. FIG. **20**A illustrates the second image in a post-decoded/processed format in a saved file at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure, such as a JPEG format.

FIG. **20**B further illustrates an embodiment that may be implemented at any time, such as before the second image is saved at a first resolution of the second image or thereafter. If a first condition is met, the first image **972** is saved in the user-accessible data structure **980** at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image. Also if the first condition is met, the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image is removed from the user-accessible data structure. The first condition may include any condition described in this document. An exemplary first condition may include an absence of a predetermined amount of available storage space in the user-accessible data structure.

For a third image, the user may compose a third picture/image by orientating the lens **360** toward a subject in a third scene as above. The image management module **330** saves the third image **976** at a first resolution of the third image in the computer readable medium **980**. FIG. **20**C illustrates the third image in a post-decoded/processed format in a saved file at a first resolution of the third image in the user-accessible data structure, such as a JPEG format.

FIG. **20**D illustrates an embodiment that may be implemented at any time, such as before the third image **976** is saved at a first resolution of the third image or thereafter. If a second condition is met, the first image **972** is saved in the user-accessible data structure **980** at a third resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the second resolution of the first image. Also if the first condition is met, the first image saved at the second resolution of the first image is removed from the user-accessible data structure. The second condition may include any condition described in this document.

FIG. **20**D also illustrates another embodiment that may be implemented at any time, such as before the third image **976** is saved at a first resolution of the third image or thereafter. If a third condition is met, the second image **974** is saved in the user-accessible data structure **980** at a second resolution of the second image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the second image. Also if the second condition is met, the second image saved at the second resolution of the second image is removed from the user-accessible data structure. The second condition may include any condition described in this document.

In an embodiment, the first image **972**, the second image **974**, and/or the third image **976** may be saved in a digital photo album of images and/or a collection of digital images **985** in the user-accessible data structure. In another embodiment, the first image **972**, the second image **974**, and/or the third image **976** may be received from a source that may or may not have captured the images. These received images may be saved and managed as described in conjunction with FIGS. **16-19**.

FIG. **21** illustrates an exemplary device **1000** in which embodiments may be implemented. The exemplary device includes means **1005** for saving a captured image at resolution in a computer readable medium and in a user-accessible form. The exemplary device **1010** also includes

means **1010** for decreasing the resolution of the saved captured image in the computer readable medium if a condition is met.

FIG. **22** illustrates another exemplary device **1030** in which embodiments may be implemented. The exemplary device includes means **1035** for saving a photograph in a computer readable medium, the photograph being saved in a first digital file having a first file size and availability to a human user. The exemplary device also includes means **1040** for saving the photograph in a second digital file having a second and smaller file size than the first file size and removing the first digital file having a first file size from the computer readable medium, if a condition is met.

FIG. **23** illustrates a further exemplary device **1060** in-which embodiments may be implemented. The exemplary device includes means **1065** for saving a first image at a first resolution in a user-accessible data structure. The exemplary device also includes means **1070** for saving a second image at a first resolution of the second image in the user-accessible data structure. The exemplary device further includes means **1080** for saving in the user-accessible data structure the first image at a second resolution of the first image that is a lesser resolution than the first resolution of the first image and removing from the user-accessible data structure the first image saved at the first resolution of the first image if a first condition is met.

FIG. **24** illustrates an exemplary operational flow **1100** in which embodiments may be implemented. After a start operation, the exemplary operational flow moves to a hold operation **1110**. The hold operation saves a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium. A change operation **1120** alters the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met. The operational flow then proceeds to an end operation.

FIG. **25** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **1100** of FIG. **24**. The change operation **1120** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **1122**, an operation **1124**, an operation **1126**, and/or an operation **1128**. If a condition is met, the operation **1122** compresses the saved digital image. If a condition is met, the operation **1124** reduces a resolution of the saved digital image. If a condition is met, the operation **1126** reduces a resolution of the saved digital image sufficiently to meet a selected objective. For example, the selected objective may include a preselected objective or a substantially contemporaneously selected objective. By way of another example, a selected objective may include constructing a panorama that includes the digital image, creating a high dynamic range composite that includes the digital image, and/or a selected depth of field. If a condition is met, the operation **1128** aggregates the saved digital image with another digital image.

FIG. **26** illustrates another alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **1100** of FIG. **24**. The change operation **1120** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **1132**, an operation **1134**, an operation **1136**, and/or an operation **1138**. If a condition is met, the operation **1132** archives the saved digital image to another user-accessible storage medium. If a condition is met, the operation **1134** deletes the saved digital image. If a condition is met, the operation **1136** crops the saved digital image. If a condition is met, the operation **1138** transfers the saved digital image to another user-accessible storage medium.

FIG. **27** illustrates a further alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **1100** of FIG. **24**. The change operation **1120** may include at least one additional operation. The at least one additional operation may include an operation **1142**, an operation **1144**, an operation **1146**, and/or an operation **1148**. If a condition is met, the operation **1142** alters the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image includes a presence of a selected subject. If a condition is met, the operation **1144** alters the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image does not include a presence of a selected subject. If a condition is met, the operation **1146** alters the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image includes a presence of a selected subject having a presence in at least one other digital image saved in the user-accessible storage medium. For example, a presence of a selected subject may include a selected frequency of a presence of a selected subject. If a condition is met, the operation **1148** alters the form of the saved digital image if the saved digital image includes a selected subject absent from at least one other digital image saved in the user-accessible storage medium.

FIG. **28** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **1100** of FIG. **24**. The change operation **1120** may include at least one additional operation, such as the operation **1152**. If a condition is met, the operation **1152** alters the form of the saved digital image if a condition corresponding to a user-selected objective. For example, a user-selected objective may include limiting saved images of my cat in an album or in the computer readable medium to X saved images, and/or saving the digital image to a contact sheet of exemplars and/or thumbnail display if more than Y pictures of subject Z are saved in the computer readable medium. The operational flow **1100** may include at least one additional operation, such as the operation **1160**. If a condition is met, the operation **1160** further alters the form of the saved digital image.

FIG. **29** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the exemplary operational flow **1100** of FIG. **24**. An additional operation may include an operation **1154**, which comprises an operation **1154**A and an operation **1154**B. At the operation **1154**A, the saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium includes saving a digital image acquired at a first time in a form in a user-accessible storage medium. The digital image acquired at a first time may include a digital image captured at a first time or a digital image saved at a first time. At the operation **1154**B, the altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met includes altering the form of the saved digital image acquired at a first time if the saved digital image includes a presence of a selected subject also having a presence in at least one other digital image saved in the user-accessible storage medium and acquired within a preselected time of the first time.

FIG. **30** illustrates an exemplary system **1200** in which embodiments may be implemented. The exemplary system includes a device **1210**. The device includes a processing unit, such as the processing unit **350** of FIG. **3**, a system memory, such as the system memory **355** of FIG. **3**, a storage medium manager module **1215**, and a user-accessible digital storage medium, illustrated as the user-accessible digital storage media **1205**. In an alternative embodiment, the device may include an image acquisition module, such as the image acquisition module **320** of FIG. **3**; a lens, such as the lens **360** of FIG. **3**; and/or a user interface, such as the user interface **370** of FIG. **3**.

The storage medium manager module **1230** is operable to save a digital image in a form in the user-accessible digital storage medium **1240**. The storage medium manager module is also operable to alter the form of the saved digital image

if a condition is met. The condition may include at least one of clarifying condition, a user-defined condition, an informed condition, an evaluated condition, and/or a computed condition. An informed condition may include a condition that employs obtained information, in contrast to a condition running autonomously or an uninformed condition. An evaluated condition may include a condition evaluated in response to an internal condition, an external condition, and/or both conditions. A computed condition may include any computed condition, in contrast with a standing condition and/or a normal or native condition related to the digital image and/or the storage medium.

In an embodiment, the storage medium manager module **1230** operable to save a digital image in a form in the user-accessible digital storage medium **1240** includes a storage medium manager module operable to save a digital image of a real-world event in a form in the user-accessible digital storage medium. In another embodiment, the user-accessible digital storage medium includes a user-accessible digital storage medium associated with a digital camera operable to capture the digital image. In a further embodiment, the device **1210** further includes the processing unit **350**. In another embodiment, the storage medium manager module further includes a storage medium manager module operable to provide the altered form of the saved digital image.

An embodiment provides a computer program product. The computer program product includes a computer-readable signal-bearing medium bearing program instructions. The program instructions include instructions operable to perform a process in a computing device. The process includes saving a digital image in a form in a user-accessible storage medium, and altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met. The computer-readable signal-bearing medium bearing the program instructions may include a computer-storage medium bearing the program instructions. The computer-readable signal-bearing medium bearing the program instructions may include a communications medium bearing the program instructions.

Another embodiment provides a device. The device includes means for saving a digital image in a form in the digital storage medium. The device also includes means for altering the form of the saved digital image if a condition is met.

A further embodiment provides a method. The method includes saving a captured image in a user-accessible memory. The method also includes deallocating at least a portion of the user-accessible memory associated with the saved captured image if a condition is met. In an embodiment, the saving a captured image into a user-accessible memory includes saving a captured image at a resolution into a user-accessible memory. In another embodiment, the deallocating at least a portion of the user-accessible memory associated with the saved captured image if a condition is met includes deallocating at least a portion of the user-accessible memory associated with the saved captured image if a condition is met. In a further embodiment, the deallocating at least a portion of the user-accessible memory associated with the saved captured image if a condition is met includes deallocating at least a portion of the user-accessible memory associated with the saved captured image if a condition is met that includes at least one of a clarifying condition, a user-defined condition, an informed condition, an evaluated condition, and/or a computed condition.

An embodiment provides a device. The device includes a memory and a memory manager. The memory manager includes operability to save a captured image into a user-accessible memory. The memory manager also includes operability to deallocate at least a portion of the memory associated with the resolution if a condition is met.

Another embodiment provides a device. The device includes first means for a holding user-accessible digital data representative of an image. The device also includes second means for saving user-accessible digital data representative of an image in the first means. The device further includes third means for altering the saved user-accessible digital data representative of the saved digital image if a condition is met.

A further embodiment provides a computer program product. The computer program product includes a computer-readable signal-bearing medium bearing program instructions. The program instructions are operable to perform a process in a computing device. The process includes saving a captured image in a memory and in a user-accessible form. The process also includes deallocating at least a portion of the memory associated with the saved captured image if a condition is met. The computer-readable signal-bearing medium bearing the program instructions may include a computer-storage medium bearing the program instructions. The computer-readable signal-bearing medium bearing the program instructions may include a communications medium bearing the program instructions.

An embodiment provides a method. The method includes directing digital data representative of an image to a managed means for holding the digital data representative of an image. The method also includes accepting modified digital data representative of the image, the digital data representative of the image having been modified by deallocating at least a portion of the digital data representative of the image by the managed means for holding digital data upon occurrence of a condition.

Referring to an exemplary high level embodiment **1220** shown in FIG. **31**, process components may include obtaining captured data on a device, which captured data has a given high quality resolution (block **1221**); transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data is initially received at the separate storage location without a significant loss of the high quality resolution (block **1222**); confirming a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different storage organization categories (block **1223**); and maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices (block **1224**).

The flow chart of FIG. **32** discloses additional exemplary embodiments **1225** which may include previously described process features **1221**, **1222**, **1223**, **1224** along with possible attributes relating to the identifier record. For example, an implementation may include providing the identifier record generated by the device (block **1226**), and in some instances providing the identifier record generated at the separate storage location (block **1227**).

Additional features may include providing the future accessibility via a communication link with an approved device (block **1228**), and providing the future accessibility via a communication link with an authorized party (block **1229**). Further features may include providing restricted accessibility to the saved version of the selected captured data based on a fee schedule (block **1231**) and providing a fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage location (block **1232**).

Some implementations may provide a storage protocol that allows access to the saved version of the selected captured data by an authorized third party (block **1233**). Other possible features may include providing a storage management task that allows usage or retrieval or distribution or replication or modification or reorganization of the saved version of the selected captured data (block **1236**), providing for further retention of the saved version of the selected captured data by the separate storage location subsequent to executing the storage management task (block **1237**), and providing a fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid by or on behalf of an authorized user or an authorized third party (block **1238**).

Referring to detailed embodiments **1240** shown in FIG. **33**, other embodiments may include previously described process components **1221**, **1222**, **1223** along with providing one or more of the following types of storage organization guidelines to facilitate future accessibility: original high resolution, permanent high resolution, temporary high resolution, lower resolution, temporary lower resolution, permanent lower resolution, deleted high resolution, deleted lower resolution, deleted content, included content, excluded content, subject matter, event, author, creator, participant, redundancy, repetition, quality, size, resolution, fidelity, tagged, preview, sample, group, sub-group, composite group, individual, personage, entity, item, content, composition, summary, augmentation, attribute, content category, frequency, and inventory (block **1243**).

Additional aspects may include approving a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on accessibility to substantially non-altered data components (block **1241**), and in some instances accessibility to regenerated or transformed data components (block **1242**).

Further possible aspects shown in FIG. **33** may include implementing a transfer based on one or more of the following criteria: rule, user input, user state, configuration, commercial, personal, context, space, device memory, device capability, bandwidth, separate storage memory, separate storage capability, separate storage accessibility, cost, task, preference, storage protocol, security, privacy, affiliation, and membership (block **1246**).

Another feature may include implementing a transfer to one or more of the following types of storage schemes: backup, archive, removable, rewritable, permanent, server, base station, network storage, web site, central, integrated, distributed, dispersed, fragmented, non-altered, transformed, encoded, bitmap, compression, volatile, replicated, third party, storefront, mobile, vehicle, residence, office, shared, proprietary, and rights-managed (block **1247**).

The embodiments **1250** of FIG. **34** may include previously disclosed features **1221**, **1222**, **1223** in combination with related aspects concerning the storage protocol. For example, a possible aspect may include providing the different storage organization categories based at least in part on one or more of the following type of parameters: temporal, available device memory, available storage location memory, user selected, device limitation, storage location requirement, and recipient choice (block **1251**).

Another process features may include implementing a transfer via a wireless link to the separate storage location (block **1252**). Further aspects may include providing the different storage organization categories based at least in part on a parameter established by a storage management algorithm (block **1256**). Related possible aspects may establish the storage management algorithm that retains in a device memory some captured data having a quality parameter that is within an output capability range of the device (block **1258**), and in some instance may establish the storage management algorithm that transfers to the separate storage location some captured data having a quality parameter that exceeds an output capability of the device (block **1257**).

Another possible feature includes establishing the storage management algorithm based at least in part on one or more of the following parameters: creator, participant, originator, source, owner, proprietary, public domain, goal, subject matter, event, established policy, selected policy, custom policy, redundancy, variety, resolution, reproduction, replication, captured quality, device quality, captured fidelity, device fidelity, commercial value, personal value, expected future use, recipient, required access frequency, expected access frequency, potential distribution, taxonomy, common theme, tag, classification, device capability, device attribute, device parameter, storage capability, storage attribute, storage parameter, device setting, user task, device context, user context, device history, and user history (block **1259**).

Referring to FIG. **35**, additional detailed embodiments **1260** may include transferring some or all of the captured data via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability, wherein selected captured data initially received at the separate storage location has a given high quality resolution (block **1261**). Other possible process features may include implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different organization categories (block **1262**). A further aspect may include maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by an authorized party or by a designated device (block **1263**).

Some implementations may further provide for maintaining the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data via a communication link with the designated device or with an authorized party (block **1264**). Further aspects may include providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that is recognizable by the authorized party and that is operably coupled to the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data (block **1266**).

Another possible feature disclosed in FIG. **35** may provide an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia including one or more of the following: symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, and sub-group element (block **1267**). Further aspects may include providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that is recognizable by the authorized party and that serves as the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data (block **1268**).

Some implementations may include processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among the one or more storage organization categories, which allocation is established automatically by the device prior to the transferring to the separate storage location (block **1269**).

Referring to FIG. **36**, various embodiments **1270** may include previously described process components **1261**, **1262**, **1263** in combination with possible aspects relating to the identifier record. For example, a possible aspect may include providing one or more of the following types of identifier records to facilitate accessibility to the saved version of the selected captured data: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt,

characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, and encoded (block **1271**). Such accessibility may be facilitated to the saved version of the selected captured data from the designated device (block **1272**), and also may be facilitated from an authorized party (block **1273**).

As further illustrated in FIG. **36**, additional implementation features may include processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among the one or more storage organization categories, which allocation is determined by an authorized user associated with the device prior to the transferring to the separate storage location (block **1276**). In some instances such allocation is determined by an authorized user associated with the device after the selected captured data is received at the separate storage location (block **1277**).

The exemplary embodiments **1280** disclosed in FIG. **37** include previously discussed process components **1221**, **1222**, **1223**, **1224** as well as various features related to the identifier record. For example, a possible aspect may include enabling an approved device or authorized user to locate the saved version by reference to the identifier record (block **1282**). Another possible aspect may include enabling an approved device or authorized user to execute a storage management task by reference to the identifier record (block **1281**).

Other possible features may include maintaining the identifier record that enables an authorized user or an authorized third party to use a different device to obtain future accessibility to the saved version of the selected captured data (block **1283**).

Additional implementations may include obtaining one or more of the following types of captured data: text, image, graphics, voice, music, sound, audio, video, audio/visual, monochrome, color, data log, measurement, instruction, biomedical, financial, sensor, environmental, personal, public, transactional, shopping, commercial, security, automotive, device-diagnostic, game, and virtual world (block **1286**). Another possible aspect may include obtaining one or more of the following types of captured data: still image, image stream, and combination of still image and image stream (block **1287**).

Further illustrated aspects may include obtaining one or more of the following types of captured data: real-time, time-delayed, original, copied, scanned, faxed, sensed, detected, derived, computed, modified, composite, enhanced, reduced, filtered, edited, condensed, compressed, compiled, retransmitted, forwarded, stored, cached, prefetched, processed, raw, live, batched, and uploaded (block **1288**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **38** shows exemplary embodiments **1290** that include previously discussed process components **1221**, **1222**, **1223**, **1224** in combination with other possible aspects. For example, some implementations may include enabling a programmed selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available for processing prior to the transferring (block **1291**). A further aspect may include employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to an authorized party prior to the transferring: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, and instructional (block **1292**).

Further possible features may include making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an owner or operator of the separate storage location (block **1293**).

Other illustrated process components shown in FIG. **38** include may include allowing an authorized user associated with the device to select an automatic transfer mode wherein the selected captured data is automatically transferred to the storage media at the separate storage location (block **1296**), and implementing the automatic transfer mode based on inadequate memory associated with the device (block **1297**).

A further possible aspect may include allowing an authorized user associated with the device to make a determination or modification of an applicable storage organization category after the selected captured data has been transferred from the device (block **1298**).

Referring to the various embodiments **1300** of FIG. **39**, previously discussed process features **1221**, **1222**, **1223**, **1224** are combined with further possible aspects relating to the identifier record. For example, some implementations may include enabling an authorized user associated with the device to make the selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available to the authorized user associated with the device prior to the transferring (block **1301**).

A further related aspect may include employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to an authorized user associated with the device: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, and instructional (block **1302**).

Another possible feature may include making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an authorized user associated with the device (block **1303**).

FIG. **39** illustrates additional possible aspects including operating the device in a delayed transfer mode wherein the selected captured data is temporarily stored on memory associated with the device prior to the transferring to the separate storage location (block **1306**), and providing authorized user accessibility to the selected captured data temporarily stored on the memory associated with the device (block **1307**). Another related aspect may include providing authorized user accessibility to one or more representative samples of the selected captured data temporarily stored on the memory associated with the device (block **1308**).

The flow chart of FIG. **40** shows exemplary embodiments **1310** that include previously described process components **1221**, **1222**, **1223**, **1224** in combination with other possible aspects including allowing one or more excerpt or transformation of the selected captured data to be retained for future reference on memory associated with the device (block **1311**). A further related aspect may include providing one or more of the following types of annotation information associated with the excerpt or transformation of the selected captured data: date, topic, event, device user, wireless storage destination, applicable storage protocol, organization category, resolution quality, scheduled deletion, scheduled quality downgrade, and fee schedule (block **1312**).

Additional implementations may include making a transfer of the selected captured data to storage media owned or

controlled by an authorized user associated with the device (block **1314**), and making a transfer of the selected captured data to a storage media owned or controlled by a third party (block **1313**).

Referring to the exemplary embodiments **1315** of FIG. **41**, previously discussed process features **1221**, **1222**, **1223**, **1224** may be implemented with possible aspects that include obtaining captured data on one or more of the following type of devices: still camera, audio recorder, digital audio recorder, audio-visual recorder, video recorder, digital video recorder, video camera, video/still camera, data recorder, telephone, cell phone, transceiver, PDA, computer, server, printer, fax, multi-function device, scanner, copier, surveillance camera, data sensor, mote, distributed imaging element, ingested sensor, medical sensor, medical imaging, health-monitoring device, traffic management device, media library, media player, vehicle sensor, vehicular device, environmental sensor, implanted device, mobile unit, fixed unit, integral, applied device, worn device, remote, radio, communication unit, scheduler, private, public, shared , residential, business, and office (block **1319**).

Additional possible features may include obtaining captured data on a portable device (block **1317**), and obtaining captured data on the portable device having one or more of the following storage capabilities: dedicated wireless link to remote storage, non-dedicated wireless link to remote storage, wireless link to multiple remote storage units, volatile memory, permanent memory, rewritable memory, internal memory, removable memory, backup memory, distributed memory, flash memory, and memory card (block **1318**).

Further aspects may include obtaining captured data on a device owned or controlled by a third party, wherein the storage media at the storage location is also owned or controlled by the same third party (block **1316**).

The high level flow chart of FIG. **42** shows an exemplary embodiment **1325** for a computer program product having one or more computer programs for executing a process (block **1326**). An exemplary process may include transferring captured data having a given high quality resolution via a communication link from a capturing device to a separate storage location for future availability (block **1327**).

Additional process features may include implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of selected captured data at the separate storage location, which storage protocol includes different organization categories (block **1328**). A further process feature may include maintaining an identifier record to enable future accessibility to the selected captured data by an authorized party or by a designated device (block **1329**). The exemplary computer program product may include storage media or communication media for encoding the process instructions (block **1331**).

The schematic block diagram of FIG. **43** illustrates various features of exemplary embodiments including separate storage location **1335**, original source capture device **1340**, intermediate source capture device **1345**, and capture & access device **1350**. A system implementation may include various combinations of features shown in FIG. **43**. For example, original source capture device **1340** associated with user **1341** may have capability for transferring selected captured data via communication link **1342** to separate storage location **1335**. A wireless communication link **1343** may also be used for such transfer to separate storage location **1335**.

The intermediate source capture device **1345** associated with user **1346** is shown receiving data inputs **1347**, **1348** and may have capability for transferring selected captured data via communication link **1349** to separate storage location **1335**. The hybrid capture/access device **1350** associated with one or more users **1351** may have capability for both transferring selected captured data to separate storage location **1335** as well as accessing saved versions of the selected captured data available at the separate storage location (see bidirectional communication link **1352**).

In some instances a designated device may be approved for implementing a transfer and/or access to the separate storage location **1335**. In other instances an authorized party (e.g., user associated with the capture device or with access device, authorized third party, etc.) may be authorized for implementing a transfer and/or access from many types of designated devices to the separate storage location **1335**.

The schematic diagram of FIG. **43** shows exemplary system embodiment components that may include access device **1355**, approved access device **1360**, approved automated access device **1365**, and approved access device **1370**.

Possible aspects may include an authorized party **1356** associated with access device **1355** having a communication link **1357** via cable to separate storage location **1335**. Another possible aspect may include a third party **1361** associated with approved access device **1360** having a communication link **1362** via dial-up line to separate storage location **1335**. A further possible aspect may include the approved automated access device **1365** having a wireless communication link **1366** to separate storage location **1335**.

Another possible aspect may include multiple entities such as authorized party **1371**, authorized party **1372**, and third party **1373** associated with approved access device **1370** having a communication link **1374** (e.g., radio signal, television signal, etc.) via satellite **1375** to separate storage location **1335**.

Referring to the schematic block diagram of FIG. **44**, various exemplary embodiment features related to separate storage location **1380** may include a separate storage interface **1382** that has possible communication links with capture device **1384**, capture & access device **1385**, access device **1386**, authorized party **1387** and third party **1388**. In some implementations a data recipient **1389** may be connected via a distribution link to the separate storage interface **1382**.

An exemplary data storage module **1390** may include one or more saved data versions **1392**, non-altered data components **1393**, modified data components **1394**, transformed data **1396**, and regenerated data **1397**. An illustrated possible feature may include centralized storage media **1400**, and in some instances active data storage files **1402** and archived data storage files **1404**. Further aspects in some implementations may include distributed storage media **1406** and removable storage media **1408**.

Processing of data may be accomplished by an exemplary computerized storage system **1410** incorporated as an integral part of the separate storage location **1380** or remotely linked to the separate storage location **1380**. The computerized storage system **1410** may include processor **1412**, controller **1414**, one or more applications **1416**, and memory **1418**.

Additional types of storage-related modules may include identifier records **1420**, storage protocol **1422**, storage organization categories **1424**, storage management algorithm **1426**, and storage management tasks **1428**.

Referring to the schematic block diagram of FIG. **45**, exemplary embodiment features incorporated in a capture device **1430** include user interface **1432** for authorized users **1434**, **1436** as well as for authorized party **1438**. In some instances such user interface **1432** may also be available to

an owner or operator of a separate storage location **1440** that is linked (see **1446**) to the capture device **1430**.

Other communication links to the capture device **1430** may include an input channel for original captured data **1442**, and another input channel for transmitted captured data **1444**.

It will be understood that various functional aspects may be incorporated with the capture device and/or with the separate storage location. Accordingly the illustrated embodiment features of FIG. **45** may include previously described identifier records **1420**, storage protocol **1422**, storage organization categories **1424**, storage management algorithm **1426**, and storage management tasks **1428**.

Of course it will be understood that the various exemplary type of records and data files are disclosed herein for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to be limiting. Some of the specified file parameters and records may not be included in certain implementations, and additional types of file parameters and records may be desirable additions in other implementations.

A computer apparatus **1450** incorporated in the capture device **1430**, or in some instances remotely linked to the capture device **1430**, may include processor **1452**, controller **1454**, one or more applications **1456**, and memory **1458**. Additional aspects operably coupled with the capture device **1430** may include integrated storage media **1460**, temporary storage **1466**, distributed storage media **1462**, and removable storage media **1464**.

Further types of data storage files may include actual captured data **1467**, modified captured data **1468**, one or more data exemplars **1472**, one or more data samples **1474**, and in some instances various transformed data excerpts **1476**. Depending on the circumstances additional aspects may include data selection rules **1478**, and a data selection program **1479** to process the captured data and facilitate a determination of which captured data will be immediately or ultimately transferred to the separate storage location. It will be understood that various records may be maintained at the transmitting device and/or at a destination storage facility to identify which individual or groups of captured data have been transferred, and in some instances providing addition details regarding the nature (e.g., resolution, future access limitations, etc.) of the selected captured data that has been transferred.

It will be further understood that aspects of such data selection rules **1478** or data selection program **1479** may be incorporated at the destination storage facility or at the transmitting device in order to achieve efficient and desirable transfer results. Some embodiments may provide somewhat sophisticated rules, including an ability to detect redundancies and carry out selection policies and goals. For example, a storage algorithm regarding soccer match data may seek to transfer at least one high resolution shot of each goal attempted or made, as well as limiting transferred spectator images to not more than ten per match and limiting transferred action player images to not more than fifty per match. Similarly a policy guideline may provide predetermined limits regarding transferred audiovisual data for each soccer match. Of course, availability of local storage capacity associated with the transmitting device may result in temporary (or perhaps long term) retention policies regarding certain types of captured data (current topical interest, additional time for pre-transfer review, etc.).

As disclosed herein, some exemplary system embodiments and computer program implementations may provide one or more program applications that include encoded process instructions for implementing a storage management algorithm that allows accessibility by a particular device to selected captured data having a quality parameter that is within an operational capability range of the particular device. Another possible implementation may provide one or more program applications that include encoded process instructions for implementing a storage management algorithm that retains for future accessibility the selected captured data having a quality parameter that exceeds an operational capability of a transmitting device.

Additional exemplary system embodiments and computer program implementations may provide one or more program applications that include encoded process instructions for implementing a storage management algorithm that facilitates accessibility to the different storage organization categories based on one or more of the following parameters: creator, participant, originator, source, owner, proprietary, public domain, goal, subject matter, event, established policy, selected policy, custom policy, redundancy, variety, resolution, reproduction, replication, captured quality, device quality, captured fidelity, device fidelity, commercial value, personal value, expected future use, recipient, required access frequency, expected access frequency, potential distribution, taxonomy, common theme, tag, classification, device capability, device attribute, device parameter, storage capability, storage attribute, storage parameter, device setting, user task, device context, user context, device history, and user history.

Other exemplary system embodiments may provide data storage files that include a saved version of selected captured data received from one or more of the following type of transmitting devices: still camera, audio recorder, digital audio recorder, audio-visual recorder, video recorder, digital video recorder, video camera, video/still camera, data recorder, telephone, cell phone, transceiver, PDA, computer, server, printer, fax, multi-function device, scanner, copier, surveillance camera, data sensor, mote, distributed imaging element, ingested sensor, medical sensor, medical imaging, health-monitoring device, traffic management device, media library, media player, vehicle sensor, vehicular device, environmental sensor, implanted device, mobile unit, fixed unit, integral, applied device, worn device, remote, radio, communication unit, scheduler, private, public, shared , residential, business, and office.

Additional possible system features may provide one or more transmitting devices for transferring the selected captured data via a communication link to the data storage files at a separate storage facility. Further possible system aspects may include one or more transmitting devices configured to implement transferring of the selected captured data based on one or more of the following criteria: rule, user input, user state, configuration, commercial, personal, context, space, device memory, device capability, bandwidth, separate storage memory, separate storage capability, separate storage accessibility, cost, task, preference, storage protocol, security, privacy, affiliation, and membership.

In some instances an exemplary implementation may include one or more transmitting devices that are owned or controlled by an entity that is an owner or operator of the separate storage facility.

Further exemplary system embodiments may provide one or more transmitting devices that include a portable transmitting device having one or more of the following storage capabilities: dedicated wireless link to remote storage, non-dedicated wireless link to remote storage, wireless link to multiple remote storage units, volatile memory, permanent

memory, rewritable memory, internal memory, removable memory, backup memory, distributed memory, flash memory, and memory card.

Additional process components incorporated in a computer program product may include retaining at a separate storage facility for future availability some selected captured data having a given quality characteristic, which selected captured data is received via a communication link with a capturing device. A related incorporated process component may include retaining for future availability one or more of the following types of selected captured data: real-time, time-delayed, original, copied, scanned, faxed, sensed, detected, derived, computed, modified, composite, enhanced, reduced, filtered, edited, condensed, compressed, compiled, retransmitted, forwarded, stored, cached, prefetched, processed, raw, live, batched, and uploaded.

Other process components incorporated in a computer program product may include enabling future accessibility by an authorized user or approved device or recipient party to the selected captured data pursuant to the storage protocol. A related incorporated process component may include providing one or more of the following parameters associated with or incorporated in an identity record to facilitate the future accessibility: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, and encoded.

A further process component incorporated in a computer program product may include providing an identifier record that is operably coupled to one or more of the different organization categories. In some implementations an incorporated process feature related to the identifier record may include providing the identifier record at the separate storage facility. Another possible incorporated process feature related to the identifier record may include providing the identifier record at the capturing device or other approved device.

Referring to the high level flow chart of FIG. **46**, an exemplary process embodiment **1500** for managing data storage may include receiving data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from one or more transmitting devices, which data includes selected captured data (block **1501**); maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as a saved version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement (block **1502**); and confirming a storage access protocol wherein an identifier record provides a specified identification of an applicable storage organization category (block **1503**). A further possible process feature may include enabling restricted future access to the saved version of the selected captured data in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement by providing an operable coupling between the identifier record and the applicable storage organization category of the separate storage facility (block **1504**).

Additional exemplary process embodiments **1505** are shown in FIG. **47** which illustrates previously described components **1501**, **1502**, **1503**, **1504** along with other possible features such as establishing an identifier record generated by a transmitting device (block **1506**), and establishing an identifier record generated by the separate storage facility (block **1507**). A further possible aspect related to restricted future access to the saved version of selected captured data may include providing such future access via a communication channel with a transmitting device or other approved device (block **1508**).

It will be understood that some implementations may provide an authentication relationship between a collection of identifier records and an approved device (e.g., capture device, transmitting device, personal mobile device, etc.). Data security may then be accomplished by providing limited logon rights, lockout schemes, or other restricted device usage techniques. The pertinent identifier record(s) can be activated pursuant to specified device interaction with the separate storage facility.

Some implementations may include providing the future access via a communication channel with an authorized user associated with a transmitting device or other device (block **1509**). Another possible feature may include providing the future access via a communication channel with an authorized third party (block **1511**).

It will be understood that some embodiments may provide an authentication relationship between a collection of identifier records and an authorized user or authorized third party. This results in future access to the separate storage facility becoming potentially more global. For example, such an authorized user or authorized third party who moves to any appropriate convenient device can generate or acquire the pertinent identifier record(s) necessary for activating a management task (e.g., retrieval, reorganization, status change, distribution authorization, etc.). In other words, such an appropriate convenient device temporarily becomes an "approved device" so long as its user qualifies as an "authorized user" or authorized third party.

Additional possible aspects illustrated in FIG. **47** include activating the future access in response to a recognizable query from a transmitting device or other approved device (block **1512**). A further possible aspect includes activating the future access in response to a recognizable query from an authorized user associated with a transmitting device or from an authorized user associated with an approved device (block **1513**). Yet another possible feature may include activating the future access in response to a recognizable query from an authorized third party (block **1514**).

The exemplary embodiments **1515** shown in FIG. **48** show previously disclosed process components **1501**, **1502**, **1503** along with various possible fee arrangements. For example, some implementations may include providing restricted availability to the selected captured data based on a fee schedule (block **1516**), and in some instances providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage facility (block **1517**). Another possible aspect may include providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid by an authorized user (block **1518**).

Additional process components may include receiving selected captured data having a given quality characteristic (block **1519**), maintaining some or all of the selected captured data without a significant loss of the given quality characteristic (block **1521**), and receiving selected captured data having a modified quality characteristic that was changed from a previous given quality characteristic (block **1522**).

Further illustrated exemplary features in FIG. **48** include maintaining the selected captured data at the separate storage facility in accordance with a quality downgrade schedule (block **1526**), and maintaining the captured data at the separate storage facility in a format that enables automatic retrieval of the saved version pursuant to the storage access protocol (block **1527**).

Other possible aspects may include maintaining the captured data at the separate storage facility in a format that enables distribution of the saved version to one or more third party recipients pursuant to the storage access protocol (block **1528**), and providing restricted availability to the selected captured data based on a fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid by a third party recipient (block **1529**).

The detailed flow chart of FIG. **49** illustrates various exemplary embodiment features **1530** including previously described components **1502**, **1503**, **1504** along with various possible aspects relating to the saved version of the selected captured data. For example, some embodiments may include implementing a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on substantially non-altered data components (block **1531**). Other embodiments may include implementing a storage format for the saved version of the selected captured data based on regenerated or transformed data components (block **1532**).

Additional process components may include providing an exemplar or abbreviation or indicia that is recognized by an authorized party and that is operably coupled to the identifier record to facilitate a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data (block **1533**). A related aspect may include processing a storage management task initiated by one or more of the following: owner of separate storage facility, operator of separate storage facility, transmitting device user, transmitting device, authorized party, approved device, and recipient party (block **1534**). Further related aspects may include providing one or more of the following type of exemplar or abbreviation or indicia: symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, and encoded (block **1536**).

Other possible aspects illustrated in FIG. **49** include processing the selected captured data to accomplish an allocation of the selected captured data among one or more storage organization categories, which allocation is determined by the authorized user associated with a transmitting device (block **1537**) or by an entity responsible for the separate storage facility (block **1538**).

Referring to the exemplary embodiment features **1540** shown FIG. **50**, previously described process features **1501**, **1502**, **1503**, **1504** may in some instances also include receiving the selected captured data at one or more of the following types of storage facilities: backup, archive, removable, rewritable, permanent, server, base station, network storage, web site, central, integrated, distributed, dispersed, fragmented, non-altered, transformed, encoded, bitmap, compression, volatile, replicated, third party, storefront, mobile, vehicle, residence, office, shared, proprietary, and rights-managed (block **1541**).

Additional possible aspects may include implementing one or more of the following types of storage organization guidelines to facilitate future access by an authorized party or approved device or recipient party: original high resolution, permanent high resolution, temporary high resolution, lower resolution, temporary lower resolution, permanent lower resolution, deleted high resolution, deleted lower resolution, deleted content, included content, excluded content, subject matter, event, author, creator, participant, redundancy, repetition, quality, size, resolution, fidelity, tagged, preview, sample, group, sub-group, composite group, individual, personage, entity, item, content, composition, summary, augmentation, attribute, content category, frequency, and inventory (block **1542**).

Another exemplary feature may include providing the different storage organization categories based at least in part on one or more of the following type of parameters: temporal, available device memory, available storage location memory, user selected, device limitation, storage location requirement, and recipient choice (block **1543**).

The exemplary detailed embodiments **1545** shown in FIG. **51** include previously described process features **1501**, **1502**, **1503** along with other possible aspects. For example, some implementations may provide one or more of the following types of identifier records to facilitate access to the saved version of the selected captured data: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, and encoded (block **1546**).

Another possible aspect relating to an identifier record may include enabling an authorized party or approved device or recipient party to locate the saved version and/or execute a storage management task concerning the saved version of the selected captured data by reference to the identifier record (block **1547**). It will be understood that in some embodiments the identifier record is operably coupled with a recognizable element that an authorized user can "look at" or authorized device can detect (e.g., identify) in order to locate selected captured data and/or execute a storage management task. However in other embodiments such a recognizable element (e.g., representative sample, thumbnail, exemplar, topical pointer, etc.) may directly function as the identifier record that is operably coupled to the separate storage facility.

Further possible features may include receiving one or more of the following types of selected captured data at the separate storage location: text, image, graphics, voice, music, sound, audio, video, audio/visual, monochrome, color, data log, measurement, instruction, biomedical, financial, sensor, environmental, personal, public, transactional, shopping, commercial, security, automotive, device-diagnostic, game, and virtual world (block **1551**).

FIG. **51** also illustrates other possible aspects including receiving one or more of the following types of selected captured data at the separate storage location: still image, image stream, and combination of still image and image stream (block **1552**). Yet another possible aspect may include receiving some or all of the selected captured data to be saved at the separate storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an authorized user associated with the transmitting device (block **1553**).

The exemplary embodiment **1555** shown in FIG. **52** illustrates a computer program product having one or more computer programs for executing a process (block **1556**). Such a process may include retaining at a separate storage facility for future availability some selected captured data having a given quality characteristic, which selected captured data is received via a communication link with a capturing device (block **1557**); and implementing a storage protocol for keeping a saved version of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility, which storage protocol includes different organization categories (block **1558**).

Further possible programmed process components may include providing an identifier record that is operably coupled to one or more of the different organization categories (block **1559**), and enabling future accessibility by an

authorized user or approved device or recipient party to the selected captured data pursuant to the storage protocol (block **1561**).

Referring to the schematic block diagram of FIG. **53**, one or more exemplary capture devices **1565** may provide data storage files **1570** that store captured data in both long term memory **1571** and temporary memory **1572**. An exemplary data management technique may include representative thumbnails **1573** and other exemplars **1574** that serve as an identifier link (e.g., directly and/or through an identifier record) to different categories of captured data. Visual access to the captured data as well as to the thumbnails **1573** and exemplars **1574** may be provided to a device user in various ways such as by viewer **1576**.

As disclosed herein, a particular process for choosing selected captured data to be transferred to a separate storage facility **1567** may be accomplished by a program control module **1575** and/or by manual control **1577**. Various types of transferability communication channels **1569** may be used that incorporate short and long distance communication media connections (e.g., Internet, wireless, cable, LAN, WAN, etc.) in order to provide periodic back and forth transfers between an approved external unit such as capture device **1565** and one or more separate storage facilities such as **1567**.

In some exemplary implementations, various storage management functions may be performed at the separate storage facility **1567** under control of an owner/operator **1568** or in some instances under remote control by an approved device or authorized user **1566**. Accordingly the illustrated separate storage facility embodiment **1567** includes data storage files **1580** with long term memory **1581** and temporary memory **1582** that store inventory data versions of the selected captured data received from a transmitting capture device **1565**.

An exemplary data management technique at the separate storage facility **1567** may include representative thumbnails **1583** and other exemplars **1584** that serve as an identifier link (e.g., directly and/or through an identifier record) to different categories of stored inventory data versions (e.g., replicated, enhanced quality, downgraded quality, transformed, regenerated, etc.). Visual access to the inventory data versions as well as to thumbnails **1583** and exemplars **1584** may be provided in various ways such as by monitor **1586**. Transferability management is shown to be subject to instructions from program control module **1585** as well as by manual control **1587**.

Referring to the schematic block diagram of FIG. **54**, an exemplary separate storage facility embodiment **1590** may be accessible via a wireless connection by transmitting capture device **1592** as well as via a wired connection (e.g., cable, telephone line, etc.) by transmitting capture device **1591**.

Exemplary informational file records that may be included in data storage records **1595** provided at or in connection with the separate storage facility **1590** may include status category records **1596**, and authorization lists **1597** with respect to users, third parties, data recipients, approved capture/transmitting devices, approved access devices, etc. Another possible file record may specify obligated parties and applicable provisions related to safekeeping arrangements **1598**. Of course such file records are for purposes of illustration only, and may be augmented or simplified depending on the circumstances.

Data storage records **1595** may include audio/visual inventory data **1601**, still images inventory data **1602**, audio inventory data **1603**, and textual inventory data **1604**. Each type of data files may be categorized in various ways, such as for example between high quality **1606**, standard quality **1607** and low quality **1608**. Such examples are for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to be limiting. It will be understood that such categorization of stored data files may be updated or modified as access availability needs change over time.

As further shown in the exemplary embodiments of FIG. **54**, future accessibility to the inventory data versions of separate storage facility **1590** may be provided to one or more external units. Depending on the circumstances, a management scheme may seek to automatically and/or manually match an available inventory data version with a capability attribute of an external unit. For example, an external unit **1610** of authorized user **1611** may have hardware and/or software functional specifications for handling low quality audio or text. Another external unit **1612** of third party **1613** may have hardware and/or software functional specifications for handling standard quality still images. A further external unit **1614** of authorized distribution recipient **1615** may have hardware and/or software specifications for handling high quality audio/visual data.

It will be understood that some exemplary transferability schemes may provide transfers of captured or stored data that does not identically match a destination device or destination storage capability. However such type of matching may in some circumstances provide additional advantages and benefits.

Referring to the schematic diagram of FIG. **55**, various exemplary embodiment features regarding storage categories for captured data **1635** are illustrated. It will be understood that a particular data structure or collection of data structures may be incorporated in many different distinct and/or different overlapping categories depending on parameters used to make an allocation to a particular category.

The various exemplary storage categories of FIG. **55** relate to captured data regarding an out-of-town soccer festival **1615**. A possible broad category includes travel to festival data **1616** with a sub-category for scenery **1617** (e.g., includes a "flowers" segment **1618**), and another sub-category for Aunt Helen visit **1619**.

Another possible broad category includes soccer match data **1620** with sub-categories for Rudy's final match **1621**, goal attempts **1622**, and high quality team color pictures **1623**. A further possible broad category includes audio/visual student concert excerpts data **1625** with overlapping related sub-categories for complete student concert audio data **1626** and for still color images of performers **1627**.

Yet a further possible broad category includes Wednesday business negotiation data **1630** with a sub-category for audio transcript **1634**. A related sub-category may be provided for textual documents **1631** that includes a working draft segment **1632** and a high quality original signed contracts segment **1633**.

Some or all of these same captured data components may collectively and individually also be incorporated in a different categorization scheme. For example, exemplary categories may include text **1636**, voice audio **1637**, music audio **1638**, and audio/visual **1639**. Other possible categories for this scheme may include personal multi-media **1640**, commercial multi-media **1641**, high quality image **1642**, and standard quality image **1643**.

Some or all of these same captured data components may collectively and individually also be incorporated in yet another different categorization scheme. For example, exemplary categories may include public domain data **1645**,

proprietary data **1646**, restricted access data **1647**, data for distribution **1648** and third party accessible data **1649**.

It will be understood that a particular separate data storage facility may have numerous authorized users and designated devices providing selected captured data under different safekeeping arrangements and related fee schedules. These same authorized users and designated devices as well as other patrons may be subject to additional accessibility guidelines and related fee schedules. Accordingly the illustrated examples are not intended to be limiting, and it is understood that changes may be made to accommodate the needs and desires of all different types of users and patrons.

The high level flow chart of FIG. **56** illustrates an exemplary process embodiment **1650** for a data storage protocol technique that includes providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes local memory capacity (block **1651**); maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement (block **1652**); and providing different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data (block **1653**). Additional possible process features may include establishing future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit (block **1654**), and implementing the future accessibility guidelines based on an applicable attribute associated with the external unit (block **1655**).

Additional exemplary embodiment features **1660** are disclosed in FIG. **57** including previously described process components **1652**, **1653**, **1654**, **1655** in combination with providing an external unit that also functions as a transmitting capture device (block **1661**). Other possible aspect may include establishing programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected captured data from the at least one transmitting capture device to the separate storage facility (block **1662**), and establishing programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an approved external unit (block **1663**).

Further possible implementations may include establishing flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to transfer certain selected captured data from the at least one transmitting capture device to the separate storage facility (block **1666**), establishing flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to transfer certain selected inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an external unit (block **1667**), and establishing flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to redirect certain selected inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an authorized recipient party (block **1668**).

The more detailed flow chart of FIG. **58** discloses various exemplary embodiment components **1670** including previously described process features **1652**, **1653**, **1654**, **1655** in combination with other possible features including transferring an inventory data version of the selected captured data from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on unused local memory capacity of the external unit (block **1671**), transferring selected captured data from the external unit to the separate storage facility based on insufficient local memory capacity of the external unit (block **1672**).

Other exemplary implementation features may include transferring an inventory data version having a particular quality characteristic from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on a matching operational quality capability of the external unit (block **1673**), and transferring selected captured data having a particular quality characteristic from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on a deficient operational quality capability of the external unit (block **1674**).

Additional aspects may include transferring an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on an identity confirmation of an authorized user at the approved external unit (block **1676**), transferring selected captured data from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on a failure to obtain confirmation of an authorized user at the external unit (block **1677**).

The illustrative features **1680** shown in FIG. **59** include previously discussed process components **1652**, **1653**, **1654**, **1655** along with other possible data transfer options. For example, some implementations may include preventing transfer of an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on a failure to obtain confirmation of an authorized user at the external unit (block **1681**), transferring selected captured data from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on confirmation of the external unit's location in a restricted area (block **1682**).

Further exemplary features may include preventing transfer of an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on confirmation of the external unit's location in a restricted area (block **1683**), establishing a guideline for redirecting certain inventory data versions to an authorized recipient party (block **1684**), and establishing a guideline for redirecting certain inventory data versions to an approved device (block **1686**).

FIG. **59** also discloses other possible aspects including providing topical and sub-topical categories for grouping inventory data versions (block **1687**), and incorporating certain inventory data versions in more than one status category (block **1688**).

Referring to the detailed exemplary embodiments **1690** shown in FIG. **60**, the previous discussed process components **1652**, **1653**, **1654**, **1655** may further include providing different quality characteristic categories for grouping inventory data versions (block **1691**). Other possible process components may include changing a status category of inventory data versions based on a lack of usage over a period of time (block **1692**), and changing a status category of inventory data versions based on instructions from an authorized user (block **1693**).

Another possible aspect may include providing an identifier record operably coupled to one or more status categories of inventory data versions (block **1695**). A further related aspect may include enabling access to the identifier record by an authorized user or approved device or recipient party to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data (block **1696**). Other possible implementation features may include enabling a storage management task initiated from an external unit to cause selected captured data to be off-loaded to the separate storage facility, or to cause inventory data versions to be down-loaded to an external unit, or to cause certain inventory data versions to be redirected to an authorized recipient party (block **1697**).

FIG. **60** also shows an exemplary aspect that includes enabling access to the identifier record by an owner or operator of the separate storage facility to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data (block **1698**). Further possible aspects may include

enabling a storage management task initiated from the separate storage facility to cause selected captured data to be off-loaded to the separate storage facility, or to cause inventory data versions to be down-loaded to an external unit, or to cause certain inventory data versions to be redirected to an authorized recipient party (block **1699**).

The detailed exemplary embodiment features **1700** shown in FIG. **61** include previously discussed process components **1651**, **1652**, **1653**, **1654** along with another aspect that may include changing a status category of inventory data versions based on a relinquishment or waiver by an authorized user associated with the at least one transmitting capture device (block **1701**). Further possible implementation features may include providing restricted availability to the inventory data versions based on a fee schedule (block **1702**), and providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage facility (block **1703**).

FIG. **61** also shows additional exemplary aspects including receiving selected captured data having a given quality characteristic (block **1706**), maintaining some or all of the selected captured data without a significant loss of the given quality characteristic (block **1707**), and receiving selected captured data having a modified quality characteristic that was changed from a previous given quality characteristic (block **1708**).

The various exemplary embodiment features **1710** of FIG. **62** may include previously discussed process components **1651**, **1652**, **1653**, **1654**, **1655** as well as maintaining the selected captured data at the separate storage facility in accordance with a quality downgrade schedule (block **1711**). A further possible aspect may include enabling a programmed selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available for processing prior to a transfer from the at least one transmitting capture device (block **1716**).

Further possible implementation features may include making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by an owner or operator of the separate storage location (block **1717**). Other possible features may include employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to an authorized party prior to the transferring: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, and instructional (block **1718**).

Referring to FIG. **63**, an exemplary computer program product embodiment **1720** provides a computer program product having one or more computer programs for executing a process (block **1721**). An exemplary process may include receiving selected captured data at a separate storage facility via a communication link from a transmitting capture device (block **1722**), providing status categories to identify an inventory data version of the selected captured data (block **1723**), implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and an approved external unit (block **1724**), and evaluating one or more applicable attributes associated with the external unit as a basis for down-loading a particular inventory data version of the selected captured data to the approved external unit (block **1726**).

Examples of back and forth transferability may involve replacing a thumbnail representation on a capture/access device with high resolution quality photographs retrieved from the separate storage facility. Another example may involve replacing an entire collection of recent photographs held in local memory of a user's capture/access device that are organized by a "date categorization" scheme with topical thumbnails organized by topics that are pertinent to a currently active project. As part of the replacement, the remaining non-topical recent photos may be transferred to the remote storage location for safekeeping and future accessibility.

Another possible example may involve prefetching from the separate storage facility previously archived high quality resolution images in anticipation of an upcoming event. A further example may involve using an external unit such as a mobile telephone to select certain individual or collective archived image data in remote archived storage, and initiate a redirection (e.g., distribution) of an enhanced transformed high quality resolution version that is matched to a high quality capability external unit of an approved recipient.

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the various components and elements disclosed in the block diagrams herein as well as the various steps and sub-steps disclosed in the flow charts herein may be incorporated together in different claimed combinations in order to enhance possible benefits and advantages.

The exemplary system, apparatus, and computer program product embodiments disclosed herein including FIGS. **1-4**C and FIG. **10** and FIGS. **20**A-**23** and FIG. **30** and FIGS. **43-45** and FIGS. **53-55** along with other components, devices, know-how, skill and techniques that are known in the art have the capability of implementing and practicing the methods and processes shown in FIGS. **5-9** and FIGS. **11-19** and FIGS. **24-29** and FIGS. **31-42** and FIGS. **46-52** and FIGS. **56-63**. It is to be understood that the methods and processes can be incorporated in one or more different types of computer program products with a carrier medium having program instructions encoded thereon. However it is to be further understood by those skilled in the art that other systems, apparatus and technology may be used to implement and practice such methods and processes.

Those skilled in the art will also recognize that the various aspects of the embodiments for methods, processes, apparatus and systems as described herein can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof.

It will be understood that variations may be incorporated in the methods, systems and program products disclosed herein for determining what data to transfer to the separate storage location, and what data to be retained by the capture device. Some predetermined guidelines or real-time decisions may be employed to determine how and whether to organize and reorganize the transferred data as well as how and whether to organize and reorganize the retained data. Possible factors may include rule guidelines, user input, context at the capture (e.g., transferring) device and/or at the separate storage location. Other types of factors may include space, bandwidth, device capabilities, accessibility of remote storage, cost task, preferences, etc.

It will be further understood that a possible return transfer (e.g., retrieval, etc.) from the separate storage location back to the capture device or other designated device (e.g., another device being used by an authorized user or other authorized third party) may depend on various factors such as freed-up or added device storage, bandwidth opportunities, tasks, context, etc.

Various computer program product embodiments and process components may include allowing accessibility to the selected captured data by an authorized party, as well as

accessibility to the selected captured data by a designated device. Other possible features may include storage media or communication media for encoding process instructions.

It will be understood from the illustrative examples herein that a technique as disclosed herein processes captured data on a device, wherein selected captured data of a given quality resolution is transferred via a communication link to a separate storage location for future availability. A storage protocol may include different storage organization categories. A possible aspect includes an identifier record to enable future accessibility to selected captured data by one or more authorized parties or approved devices or authorized recipients.

Those having skill in the art will recognize that the state of the art has progressed to the point where there is little distinction left between hardware and software implementations of aspects of systems; the use of hardware or software is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software can become significant) a design choice representing cost versus efficiency tradeoffs. Those having skill in the art will appreciate that there are various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein can be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and that the preferred vehicle may vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle; alternatively, if flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation; or, yet again alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware. Hence, there are several possible vehicles by which the processes and/or devices and/or other technologies described herein may be effected, none of which is inherently superior to the other in that any vehicle to be utilized is a choice dependent upon the context in which the vehicle may be deployed and the specific concerns (e.g., speed, flexibility, or predictability) of the implementer, any of which may vary. Those skilled in the art will recognize that optical aspects of implementations will require optically-oriented hardware, software, and or firmware.

The foregoing detailed description has set forth various embodiments of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flow diagrams, operation diagrams, flowcharts, illustrations, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, operation diagrams, flowcharts, illustrations, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, operation diagrams, flowcharts, illustrations, or examples can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. In one embodiment, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that some aspects of the embodiments disclosed herein, in whole or in part, can be equivalently implemented in standard integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and or firmware would be well within the skill of one of skill in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein are capable of being distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative embodiment of the subject matter described herein applies equally regardless of the particular type of signal bearing media used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing media include, but are not limited to, the following: recordable type media such as floppy disks, hard disk drives, CD ROMs, digital tape, and computer memory; and transmission type media such as digital and analog communication links using TDM or IP based communication links (e.g., packet links).

It will be understood by those within the art that, in general, terms used herein, and especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) are generally intended as "open" terms (e.g., the term "including" should be interpreted as "including but not limited to," the term "having" should be interpreted as "having at least," the term "includes" should be interpreted as "includes but is not limited to," etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases "at least one" and "one or more" to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to inventions containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an" (e.g., "a" and/or "an" should typically be interpreted to mean "at least one" or "one or more"); the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should typically be interpreted to mean at least the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of "two recitations," without other modifiers, typically means at least two recitations, or two or more recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, and C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, and C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, or C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, or C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.).

The herein described aspects depict different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely exemplary, and that in fact many other architectures can be implemented which achieve the same function-

ality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively "associated" such that the desired functionality is achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve a particular functionality can be seen as "associated with" each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermedial components. Likewise, any two components so associated can also be viewed as being "operably connected," or "operably coupled," to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Any two components capable of being so associated can also be viewed as being "operably couplable" to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components and/or wirelessly interactable and/or wirelessly interacting components.

As a further definition of "open" terms in the present specification and claims, it will be understood that usage of a language construction "A or B" is generally interpreted as a non-exclusive "open term" meaning: A alone, B alone, A and B together.

While various aspects and embodiments have been disclosed herein, other aspects and embodiments will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The various aspects and embodiments disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting, with the true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

We claim:

1. A data storage protocol method comprising:

providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes at least local memory capacity;

maintaining some or all of the selected captured data at the separate storage facility as an inventory data version that is stored in accordance with a safekeeping arrangement and in accordance with a quality downgrade schedule;

providing one or more different status categories to identify the inventory data version of the selected captured data, wherein each status category comprises at least a topical category defining a group of one or more inventory data versions;

establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and a selected external unit selected from at least one external unit, the selected external unit being other than a transmitting image capture device; and

implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines based on one or more capability attributes associated with the selected external unit, including at least implementing a storage facility management protocol for automatically selecting an external unit from the at least one external unit based at least in part on automatically matching at least some inventoried audio/visual data having at least one or more processing requirements with at least one of a hardware of a software function specification of the selected external unit that specifies that the selected external unit is capable of processing audio/visual data having at least the one or more processing requirements; and

wherein at least one of the providing a separate storage facility, the maintaining, the providing one or more different status categories, the establishing, or the implementing is performed at least in part with one or more processing devices.

2. The method of claim **1** wherein said establishing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing one or more programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected captured data from the at least one transmitting capture device to the separate storage facility.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein said establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing one or more programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected one or more inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an approved external unit.

4. The method of claim **3** wherein said establishing one or more programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for transferring certain selected one or more inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an approved external unit comprises:

establishing one or more programmed guidelines that require no user intervention for at least one or more back and forth transfers of certain selected one or more inventory data versions between the separate storage facility and the transmitting capture device, certain selected one or more inventory data versions including at least some capture data captured by the transmitting capture device.

5. The method of claim **1** wherein said establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing one or more flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to transfer certain selected captured data from the at least one transmitting capture device to the separate storage facility.

6. The method of claim **1** wherein said establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing one or more flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to transfer certain selected one or more inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an external unit.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein said establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing one or more flexible guidelines that allow user intervention for determining whether to redirect certain selected one or more inventory data versions from the separate storage facility to an authorized recipient party.

8. The method of claim **1** wherein said implementing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring an inventory data version of the selected captured data from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on unused local memory capacity of the external unit.

9. The method of claim **1** wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring selected captured data from an external unit, that includes at least other than a capture device, to the separate storage facility based on insufficient local memory capacity of the external unit.

10. The method of claim **1** wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring an inventory data version having a particular quality characteristic from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on a matching operational quality capability of the external unit.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring selected captured data having a particular quality characteristic from an external unit, that includes at least other than a capture device, to the separate storage facility based on a deficient operational quality capability of the external unit.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on an identity confirmation of an authorized user at an approved external unit.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring selected captured data from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on a failure to obtain confirmation of an authorized user at the external unit.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

preventing transfer of an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on a failure to obtain confirmation of an authorized user at the external unit.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

transferring selected captured data from an external unit to the separate storage facility based on confirmation of the external unit's location in a restricted area.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

preventing transfer of an inventory data version from the separate storage facility to an external unit based on confirmation of the external unit's location in a restricted area.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing a guideline for redirecting certain inventory data versions to an authorized recipient party.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines comprises:

establishing a guideline for redirecting certain inventory data versions of the separate storage facility to one or more approved devices, the one or more approved devices including at least the transmitting capture device.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing one or more different status categories comprises:

providing one or more sub-topical categories for grouping one or more inventory data versions, wherein at least one sub-topical category comprises a subset of one or more inventory data versions of at least one of the one or more different status categories.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said providing one or more sub-topical categories comprises:

incorporating certain one or more inventory data versions in more than one status category.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing one or more different status categories comprises:

providing one or more different quality characteristic categories for grouping one or more inventory data versions.

22. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing an identifier record operably coupled to one or more status categories of one or more inventory data versions; and

enabling access to the identifier record by at least one of an authorized user, an approved device, or a recipient party, to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said enabling access comprises:

enabling a storage management task initiated from an external unit to cause at least one of selected captured data to be off-loaded to the separate storage facility, or one or more inventory data versions to be down-loaded to an external unit, or certain one or more inventory data versions to be redirected to an authorized recipient party.

24. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing an identifier record operably coupled to one or more status categories of one or more inventory data versions; and

enabling access to the identifier record by at least one of an owner or an operator of the separate storage facility to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said enabling access to the identifier record by an owner or operator of the separate storage facility to accomplish a storage management task regarding the selected captured data comprises:

enabling a storage management task initiated from the separate storage facility to cause at least one of selected captured data to be off-loaded to the separate storage facility, or inventory data versions to be down-loaded to an external unit, or certain one or more inventory data versions to be redirected to an authorized recipient party.

26. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

changing a status category of inventory data versions based on a lack of usage over a period of time.

27. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

changing a status category of one or more inventory data versions based on instructions from an authorized user.

28. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

changing a status category of inventory data versions based on at least one of a relinquishment or a waiver by an authorized user associated with the at least one transmitting capture device.

29. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing restricted availability to the one or more inventory data versions based on a fee schedule.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said providing the restricted availability comprises:

providing the fee schedule that includes a fee allocation paid to an entity responsible for the separate storage facility.

31. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing the separate storage facility that receives selected captured data comprises:

enabling a programmed selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the separate storage location based at least in part on making the captured data available for processing prior to a transfer from the at least one transmitting capture device.

32. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing the separate storage facility that receives selected captured data comprises;

making a selection of the captured data to be saved on storage media at the storage location based at least in part on a set of rules configured by at least one of an owner or an operator of the separate storage location.

33. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing the separate storage facility that receives selected captured data comprises:

employing one or more of the following features for making the captured data available to an authorized party prior to the transferring: printout, screen display, viewfinder display, display monitor, thumbnail display, removable memory, device memory, audio, tactile, alert, notification, transmittal to other device, or instructional.

34. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing the separate storage facility that receives selected captured data comprises:

receiving selected captured data having a given quality characteristic.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said receiving selected captured data having the given quality characteristic comprises:

maintaining some or all of the selected captured data without a significant loss of the given quality characteristic.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein said receiving selected captured data having the given quality characteristic comprises:

receiving selected captured data having a modified quality characteristic that was changed from a previous given quality characteristic.

37. The data storage protocol method of claim 1, wherein the implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines based on one or more capability attributes associated with the selected external unit, including at least implementing a storage facility management protocol for automatically selecting an external unit from the at least one external unit based at least in part on automatically matching at least some inventoried audio/visual data having at least one or more processing requirements with at least one of a hardware of a software function specification of the selected external unit that specifies that the selected external unit is capable of processing audio/visual data having at least the one or more processing requirements comprises:

prefetching at least some of the selected captured data from the separate storage facility in anticipation of an upcoming event, including at least prefetching a previously archived high quality resolution image in anticipation of the event.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the event is in accordance with the quality downgrade schedule.

39. The data storage protocol method of claim 1, wherein the establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and a selected external unit selected from at least one external unit, comprises:

establishing one or more future accessibility guidelines in accordance with the safekeeping arrangement to control back and forth data transferability between the separate storage facility and an external unit, the external unit being associated with at least one of a third party or an authorized distribution recipient.

40. The data storage protocol method of claim 1, wherein the implementing the one or more future accessibility guidelines based on one or more capability attributes associated with the selected external unit, including at least implementing a storage facility management protocol for automatically selecting an external unit from the at least one external unit based at least in part on automatically matching at least some inventoried audio/visual data having at least one or more processing requirements with at least one of a hardware of a software function specification of the selected external unit that specifies that the selected external unit is capable of processing audio/visual data having at least the one or more processing requirements comprises:

implementing a storage facility management protocol for at least automatically selecting an external unit from at least two external units by at least automatically matching at least some inventoried audio/visual data having at least one or more processing requirements with at least one of (a) at least one of a hardware or a software functional specification of a first external unit, that includes at least other than a capture device, which specifies that the first external unit is capable of handling a first quality of audio/visual data or (b) at least one of a hardware or a software functional specification of a second external unit, that includes at least other than a capture device, which specifies that the second external unit is capable of handling a second quality of audio/visual data, the first quality of audio/visual data being a lesser quality relative to the second quality of audio/visual data.

41. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from at least one transmitting capture device, which capture device includes at least local memory capacity comprises:

providing a separate storage facility that receives selected captured data via a communication link from one or more of the following type of transmitting capture device: still camera, audio recorder, digital audio recorder, audio-visual recorder, video recorder, digital video recorder, video camera, video/still camera, data recorder, telephone, cell phone, transceiver, PDA, computer, server, printer, fax, multi-function device, scanner, copier, surveillance camera, data sensor, mote, distributed imaging element, ingested sensor, medical sensor, medical imaging, health-monitoring device, traffic management device, media library, media player, vehicle sensor, vehicular device, environmental sensor, implanted device, mobile unit, fixed unit, integral, applied device, worn device, remote, radio, communication unit, scheduler, private, public, shared , residential, business, or office.

42. A computer program product, comprising:

at least one non-transitory computer readable medium storing instructions executable by a computer including at least:

one or more instructions for receiving some or all of a selected captured data for retention at a separate storage facility via a communication link from a transmitting capture device;

one or more instructions for providing one or more status categories to identify an inventory data version of the selected captured data, wherein each status category comprises at least a topical category defining a group of one or more inventory data versions;

one or more instructions for implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and a selected approved external unit selected from at least one approved external unit, the selected approved external unit being other than a transmitting image capture device;

one or more instructions for maintaining the selected captured data at the separate storage facility in accordance with a quality downgrade schedule; and

one or more instructions for implementing a storage facility management protocol for automatically selecting an external unit of the at least one external unit based at least in part on automatically matching at least some inventoried audio/visual data having at least one or more processing requirements with at least one of a hardware or a software function specification of the selected approved external unit that specifies that the selected approved external unit is capable of processing audio/visual data having at least the one or more processing requirements.

43. The computer program product of claim **42** wherein the one or more instructions for receiving some or all of a selected captured data for retention at a separate storage facility via a communication link from a transmitting capture device comprises:

one or more instructions for retaining one or more of the following types of selected captured data: real-time, time-delayed, original, copied, scanned, faxed, sensed, detected, derived, computed, modified, composite, enhanced, reduced, filtered, edited, condensed, compressed, compiled, retransmitted, forwarded, stored, cached, prefetched, processed, raw, live, batched, or uploaded.

44. The computer program product of claim **42** wherein the one or more instructions for implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and a selected approved external unit selected from at least one approved external unit comprises:

one or more instructions for providing one or more of the following parameters associated with or incorporated in an identity record to facilitate the future accessibility:

exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, or encoded.

45. The computer program product of claim **42** wherein the one or more instructions for implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and a selected approved external unit selected from at least one approved external unit comprises:

one or more instructions for providing, at the separate storage facility, one or more of the following parameters associated with or incorporated in an identity record to facilitate the future accessibility: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, or encoded.

46. The computer program product of claim **42** wherein the one or more instructions for implementing a safekeeping arrangement for restricted back and forth transferability between the separate storage facility and a selected approved external unit selected from at least one approved external unit comprises:

one or more instructions for providing, at the transmitting capture device or other approved device, one or more of the following parameters associated with or incorporated in an identity record to facilitate the future accessibility: exemplar, abbreviation, indicia, symbol, code, name, title, icon, date, excerpt, characteristic, form, alternate format, listing, reorganization, aggregation, summary, reduction, representation, sample, thumbnail, image, preview, group specimen, sub-group element, unique, non-unique, arbitrary, global, semantic, public, private, or encoded.

47. The computer program product of claim **42**, wherein the at least one non-transitory computer readable medium comprises:

at least one of a storage medium or a communication medium for encoding one or more process instructions.

48. A system for managing data, comprising:

one or more data storage files including one or more saved versions of selected captured data received from a transmitting capture device;

one or more processing devices operably coupled with said one or more data storage files; and

one or more non-transitory computer-readable media bearing:

one or more instructions configured to enable future back and forth transferability of the selected captured data between a separate data storage facility and a selected external unit selected from at least one external unit, the selected external unit being other than a transmitting image capture device, wherein such transferability is at least partially dependent upon confirmation that such transferability occurs with at least one of an authorized party or an approved device or an authorized recipient party, the one or more instructions configured to enable future back and forth transferability including at least one or more instructions for implementing a storage facility management protocol for automatically selecting an external unit of the at least one external unit based at least in part on automatically matching at least some inventoried audio/visual data having at least one or more processing requirements with at least one of a hardware or a software function specification of the selected external unit that specifies that the selected external unit is capable of processing audio/visual data having at least the one or more processing requirements; and

one or more instructions for implementing a storage management algorithm that facilitates future accessibility to one or more different status categories, wherein at least one status category comprises at least a topical category defining a group of one or more inventory data versions based on one or more of the following parameters: public domain, goal, subject matter, event, expected future use, taxonomy, common theme, classification, or user task.

49. The system of claim **48** wherein said one or more data storage files include at least an inventory data version of selected captured data received from one or more of the following type of transmitting capture device: still camera, audio recorder, digital audio recorder, audio-visual recorder, video recorder, digital video recorder, video camera, video/still camera, data recorder, telephone, cell phone, transceiver, PDA, computer, server, printer, fax, multi-function device, scanner, copier, surveillance camera, data sensor, mote, distributed imaging element, ingested sensor, medical sensor, medical imaging, health-monitoring device, traffic management device, media library, media player, vehicle sensor, vehicular device, environmental sensor, implanted device, mobile unit, fixed unit, integral, applied device,

worn device, remote, radio, communication unit, scheduler, private, public, shared , residential, business, or office.

50. The system of claim **48** further comprising:

one or more transmitting capture devices for transferring the selected captured data via a communication link to the one or more data storage files at a separate storage facility.

51. The system of claim **50** wherein said one or more transmitting capture devices are configured to implement transferring of the selected captured data based on one or more of the following criteria: rule, user input, user state, configuration, commercial, personal, context, space, device memory, device capability, bandwidth, separate storage memory, separate storage capability, separate storage accessibility, cost, task, preference, storage protocol, security, privacy, affiliation, or membership.

52. The system of claim **50** wherein said one or more transmitting capture devices includes at least a portable transmitting device having one or more of the following associated data storage capabilities: dedicated wireless link to remote storage, non-dedicated wireless link to remote storage, wireless link to multiple remote storage units, volatile memory, permanent memory, rewritable memory, internal memory, removable memory, backup memory, distributed memory, flash memory, or memory card.

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